



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

NOTES  
ON  
GRANTHAM.

1803

Bu 5188.92

A



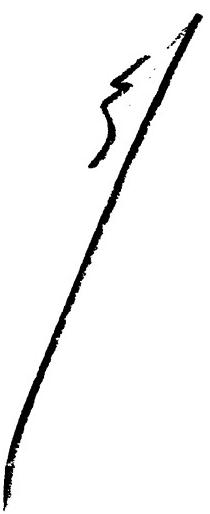
Harvard College Library

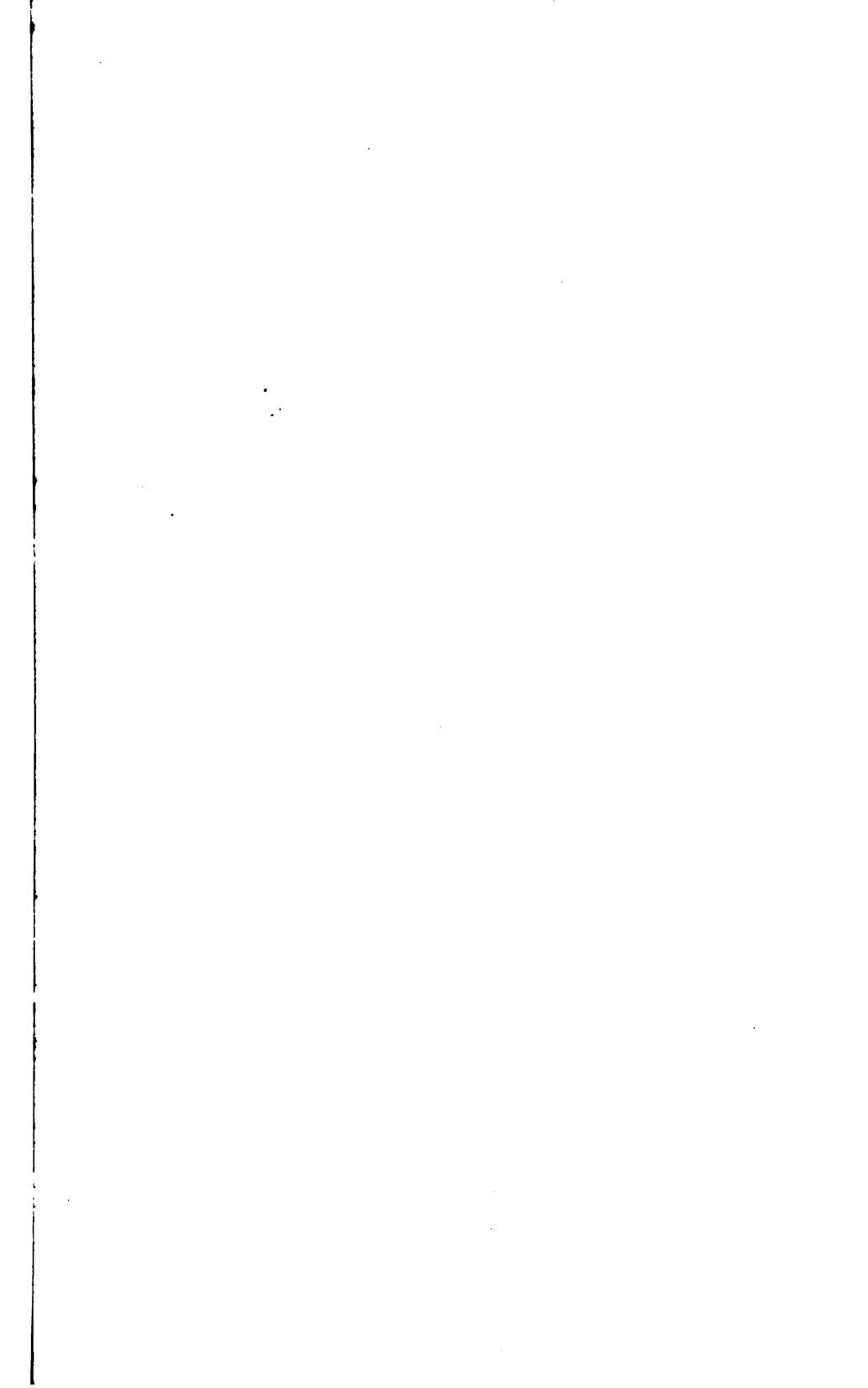
FROM THE

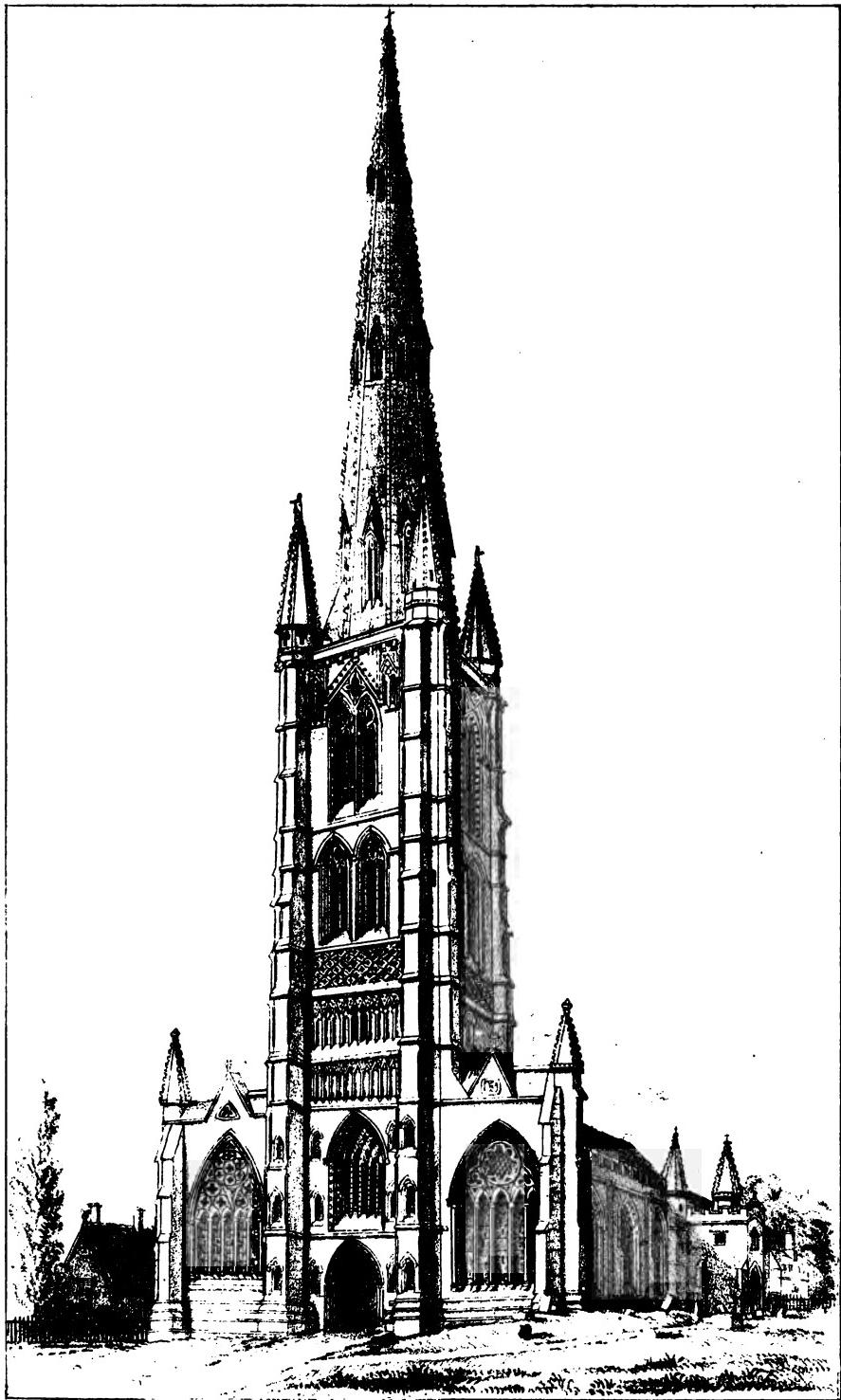
PRICE GREENLEAF FUND

Residuary legacy of \$711,563 from E. Price Greenleaf,  
of Boston, nearly one half of the income from  
which is applied to the expenses of the  
College Library.









*St Wolfran's Church. Grantham.*

HISTORICAL  
NOTES ON GRANTHAM,

AND

*Grantham Church,*

BY

THE REV. B. STREET, B. A.,

CURATE OF GRANTHAM.

*SPARTAM QUAM NACTUS ES ORNA.*

—

GRANTHAM :  
S. RIDGE & SON, HIGH-STREET.  
1857.

Br 5188.92

A ✓

(  
1 2 3 4 )

Price Greenleaf fund

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
GRANTHAM . . . . .	5
SAC AND SOC . . . . .	7
GRANTHAM IN SAXON TIMES . . . . .	8
ST. WOLFRAN . . . . .	11
THURGAR, PRIEST OF GRANTHAM . . . . .	14
THE EMPRESS MATILDA . . . . .	16
THE GRANTHAM HUNDRED ROLL . . . . .	18
LORDS OF GRANTHAM . . . . .	20
COUNTESS OF ARUNDEL'S TENURE OF GRANTHAM . . . . .	30
GRANTHAM, A FREE SOKE . . . . .	34
WAPENTAKES OF WINNIBRIGGS AND TREHOW . . . . .	36
QUEEN ELEANOR'S CROSS . . . . .	40
THE GREY FRIARS' PRIORY . . . . .	44
PETER CHURCH HILL . . . . .	48
THE CONDUIT . . . . .	51
THE ANGEL INN . . . . .	52
GUILDS AND CHANTRIES . . . . .	58
GRANTHAM PARISH CROSS . . . . .	64
MARGARET TUDOR AT GRANTHAM . . . . .	66
THE GEORGE INN . . . . .	68
GRANTHAM TRADE TOKENS . . . . .	70
NAMES OF STREETS, &c. . . . .	72
HAMLETS . . . . .	74

	Page
GRANTHAM SPIRE . . . . .	77
WEEK-DAY LECTURE . . . . .	82
THE PURITANS IN GRANTHAM . . . . .	84
GRANTHAM DURING THE GREAT REBELLION . . . . .	91
THE CHARTER OF THE BOROUGH . . . . .	105
ARMS OF THE BOROUGH . . . . .	112
MEMBERS FOR THE BOROUGH . . . . .	115
ANCIENT CORPORATION . . . . .	116
CORPORATION RECORDS . . . . .	120
ELECTION OF THE ALDERMAN . . . . .	121
CHIEF MAGISTRATES . . . . .	123
FAIRS AND MARKETS . . . . .	127
THE PREBENDS OF GRANTHAM . . . . .	128
THE VICARAGES OF GRANTHAM . . . . .	135
GRANTHAM CHURCH STRUCTURE . . . . .	137
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL . . . . .	147
MISCELLANEOUS NOTES . . . . .	150
APPENDIX.—FOUNDED OF CROYLAND ABBEY CHURCH . . . . .	163

The reader is requested to correct the following Errata.

Page 7, last line, instead of 'it once included Colsterworth,' 'it once included Welby.'

Page 51, the date on the Conduit is 1597, not 1579; and Mr. Bury was Alderman in 1597.

## Introduction.

---

As the information respecting Grantham contained in the present notes has been collected almost exclusively from the Public Records of the Kingdoms, it may be better to give a brief account of the principal Records at once, than to encumber the narrative with repeated references to them.

The earliest Record of Grantham is in Domesday, the result of a survey made by order of William the Conqueror, in the years from 1080 to 1086. Similar surveys had been made, it would appear, by Saxon Kings, whenever an interval of peace allowed it to be done; but none are preserved. Our Saxon Ancestors called the Commissioners who made the survey, Doomsters, and their report Doom, that is to say, judgment or verdict, and the Record itself Domesday.

Though the entries in Domesday are so abrupt, concise, and obscure as to repel the reader at first sight, a little reflection invests them with interest. They bring before us the agricultural Saxon man of Grantham, deposing that Grantham was the portion of Edward the Confessor's widow; speaking to his new masters of Saxon privileges, such as the Norman found it easier to annul than to understand; and exciting his cupidity by detailing the large estates of the Saxon Earl Colegrim, then the great proprietor in the neighbourhood. And there also we

find the parish Priest of Grantham offering to bring a hundred of his people to maintain his rights in some property against the grasping Bishop of Durham of those days.

The Records next in date are of Feudal Times, made about 200 years after Domesday, and present the country to us in a different condition. The difference may be understood by considering, that whereas the Anglo Saxons named the subdivisions of the land mostly from the requirements of agriculture, the Normans partitioned them according to the requirements of war. The Anglo Saxons reckoned the extent of arable land by oxgangs, as much as a team of oxen could plough in one season. But the Norman having divided the country among his fighting Barons and Bishops, divided it into Knight's fees, or sufficient land to maintain the dignity of a Knight; and the requirements of war dictated the law of the land.

Accordingly, the next most ancient Record, Liber Feodorum,<sup>1</sup> the Register of Fiefs and Knights' fees, gives us the names and the estates of the men who had fought in the Crusades and in Normandy, the men whose effigies in brass or marble still remain in many of our Churches.

A Record of about the same date is still more important than the Liber Feodorum. It is the Rotuli Hundredorum, a Report of Commissioners sent to enquire, throughout England, into the various abuses of powers, alienation of Crown manors, and all usurpations of rights which had been perpetrated during the absence of Edward the First on the Crusade, and during the troubulous reigns of his predecessors. The King's Commissioners took their inquisition respecting Grantham, at Stamford, on the oaths of twelve honest and lawful men of Grantham, in the year 1275.

<sup>1</sup> Entitled Testa de Neville. A title which has not been satisfactorily explained. I apprehend it is an abbreviation of Testatio de Neville, the deposition of De Neville, for the actual Testa de Neville consists of only a few documents in the Book. And this book was not considered as a Record, but as Evidence, by the old Lawyers.

The rectification of the abuses presented to the above Commissioners, produced other valuable Records, known as the Quo Warranto Pleas, in 1281.

The Ecclesiastical assessment of King Edward the First, Taxatio Ecclesiastica, made in 1291, gives the same information respecting the estates and revenues of the Church and Abbeys, as the Register of Fiefs does with respect to the property of the Laity.

This valuation of all Church property was made because the Pope who claimed and always took the tenth part of all the revenues of the Church of England, (in addition to what he extorted by other means,) granted those tenths for three years to King Edward the First, to encourage and enable him to lead another Crusade to the Holy Land, then almost entirely wrested from the Christians by the Saracens. The King, in order to obtain the full amount, had the Church property valued, and collected the tenths. But his wars with Wallace and the Bruce prevented the intended expedition against the Saracens, and Edward dying, could fulfil his vow no further than by desiring that his heart should be conveyed to the Holy Land and there interred.

The Charter Rolls, Patent and Close Rolls, and Exchequer Rolls, the earliest document in which is dated 3rd John, A. D. 1202, have also supplied many dates and facts.

Omitting some other Public Records in which the returns for Grantham are unfortunately missing, or exceedingly scanty, there remains to be noticed, the Valor Ecclesiasticus, of Henry the Eighth, another valuation of all Church and Monastic property without exception, made in the year 1535. This is the Domesday Book of the Monastic orders : the King confiscated their property as William the Conqueror had confiscated that of the Saxons. In this notorious seizure of Abbey estates and others, it seems to me that the Church was not actually impoverished by the King. The parochial Church never was wealthy. The Monastic Orders had acquired all the livings and Church lands

they could wrest from their lawful owners, and in a few years would have swallowed up all. The King seized from them what they had already taken from the Church, the robbers were the Monks, and Henry the Eighth should not have made himself a receiver of stolen goods, but ought to have acted like a King and restored them to their owners. Moreover, the Pope annually extorted from the Clergy the proceeds of what the Monks had not got, as far as he could. Henry the Eighth at least put an end to these exactions. The Puritans afterwards injured the parochial Church more than Henry the Eighth had done.

## *Grantham.*

---

EVELYN had seen Grantham with a cheerful eye when he wrote "Grantham is a pretty town, so well situated on the side of a bottom which is large, and at a distance environed by ascending grounds, that for pleasure I consider it comparable to most inland places in England." He had come from Lincoln through Sleaford to Grantham, and when he crossed the Roman Ermyn Street or High Dyke Road, he crossed the line along which the tide of war had always swept, and descended down green slopes into the fertile hollow where agriculture has continually found one of its most favoured abodes. It does not require a soldier's eye to perceive that Grantham never could be a military post, nor the eye of an engineer to see that early road makers would not carry a road down into the valley and up again along its steep sides, when the table land to the East, and the central plain of England to the West of the ranges of hills, offered them a continued broad level.

Thus the natural conformation of the country ensured the seclusion of the town, and prevented it from being an important military point, for the possession of which factions would contend. But the slow Saxon felt secure with his herds on the slopes of Grantham valley, and had mills along the Witham where they still stand.

On the other hand, the manor and town being always a Royal Domain, granted as we find to the wives or relatives of

successive Sovereigns, with the expressed understanding that they were never to be alienated from the Crown, but return to it after temporary tenure, were secured from falling into the grasp of the Great Abbeys ; which we find adding field to field in the neighbourhood, till they almost enclosed Grantham with a ring of Abbey lands.

The early history of England containing little beyond the narratives of Military or Monastic aggressions, and neither of these finding scope in Grantham, the town is seldom named in the Chronicles of Abbots or Captains. And no town of equal importance is so seldom mentioned.

It has been held by men of action and renown, but they never lived in the town, and their great deeds were done elsewhere. The catalogue of the Lords of the Manor of Grantham is accordingly only a list of names, but it is pleasant to know who they were and what they did, and to give these notes some interest I have endeavoured to direct my reader to their several histories.



Pubd Febt 1807. by the Rev'd W. Coote, London. E. Harding sc.

Your Excellency's  
most obedient  
& most humble servant  
Robinson

SIR THOMAS ROBINSON, 1<sup>st</sup> LORD GRANTHAM,

*From a Miniature in the Possession of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Miss Robinson.*

Per  
in th  
havin  
of tha  
The  
certa  
T  
is t]  
cau  
‘for  
cau  
ou  
ju

ri

## Grantham Soke.

---

### SAC AND SOC.

Persons are said in Saxon parlance to have 'sac' and 'soc' in their district, as a privilege. This seems equivalent to having the privilege of 'suing' and 'being sued' in the courts of that district in causes not reserved for the King's hearing. The right, in fact, of local and self government by jury to a certain extent.

The most probable derivation of the terms 'sac' and 'soke,' is that given by Spelman, who says, that 'sac' is 'sake' or cause; considering such an expression as 'for my sake' to mean 'for my cause:' and thus a Soke came to mean a district, causes arising in which might be heard and determined without travelling to a distant court, and appearing before a strange jury.

The extent of Grantham Soke has varied at different periods, at one time it included Colsterworth.

## Grantham in Saxon Times.

---

THERE is no evidence that the Romans ever occupied Grantham. Hollingshed states that a trough full of Roman coins was dug up at Grantham, but this treasure must have been the proceeds of the plunder of some Roman Station by the Britons.

The Domesday survey of Grantham shews that the Town had been Royal property before the Conquest; Editha, Queen of Edward the Confessor, held it, and had a court of suits in the town ; she had died about ten years before ; the Conqueror considered her property to belong to himself. The Queen of the Conqueror died whilst the survey was in progress.

The Abbey of Peterborough, the ancient Medehamstead and Burgh of St. Peter, had land in Grantham also before the Conquest, given to the Abbey by a Saxon Nun, Elswid ; her land appears to have been that called Nonegetune, the Nun's town land, in Domesday. Colegrim also had given a house in Grantham Borough and some land to the Abbey, as we learn from a grant of Privileges by Pope Eugenius the Third, to Peterborough, dated 1146, in which the donation is mentioned.<sup>1</sup> These continued in the possession of the Abbey till the dissolution of Monasteries by Henry the Eighth.

The Conqueror gave to Osmund, Lord of Saye in Normandy, whom he made Bishop of Salisbury, (Sarum), in 1079,

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale.

Church lands amounting to two carucates<sup>1</sup> of arable land and fifteen oxgangs of meadow, all lying in Londonthorpe, besides thirteen acres of meadow lying in Grantham; but the patronage of the Church remained with the Crown.

There was one parish Church, St. Wolfran's, and Chapels at Londonthorpe and Braceby. The clear annual value of the living was but £5, equal probably to £150 now. The pound then being 12 ounces weight of silver, and money of at least ten times greater value than at present. There were 111 Burgesses and 72 Bordarii, and four mills, water mills of course, as at present.

In the Life of Offa the Second, we are told that Lincolnshire, in Saxon times, was not part of the diocese of the Bishop whose residence was at Dorchester, but that there was a Bishop of Lindesig, (Lindsey.) In a writ 3rd Henry III, 1219, Grantham is described as being in Lindsey.

I apprehend that, before the Conquest, Grantham was in the diocese of these Bishops of Lindsey, whose residence and Cathedral Church were at Stowe: Kembirt was Bishop of Lindsey about 720, in St. Wolfran's days. Remigius who was made Bishop of Dorchester at the Conquest, 1067, removed to Lincoln and combined several Sees, as those of Leicester and Lindsey, into one, after the grasping fashion of the Romish Norman Clergy.

Stamford both before and for several centuries after the Conquest was in some respects the capital of South Lincolnshire, as Lincoln was of the Northern Division of the County.

Cambridge seems to have been called Grantham in Saxon times, afterwards Grantabrig or Grantacester. It is Cambridge that is meant in the Saxon Chronicle where Gorboman or Granbodian is said to have built Grantham. Grantham in Lincolnshire is written Graham, Gratham, contractedly; and fully, Grantham, Graunthame, in old documents.

1 The hide or carucate is thought to have contained a hundred acres: but in land measure, the hundred was of six scores.—Ellis' Domesday Illustrated.

In the *Archæologia*, vol. xviii. p. 190, it is stated that Canute coined money in Grantham; the evidence adduced is a silver penny of Canute, found near Lancaster, in 1815, bearing the words "Grim on Grante," apparently a mint mark. I cannot see how these words can possibly designate Grantham.

The High Dyke road that runs Eastward of the town is part of the ancient Ermyn Street. In Saxon times this was one of the King's Highways, on which the King's peace was to be kept, and assaults upon travellers on those roads were reckoned more aggravated offences than those committed on other roads; according to the laws of Edward the Confessor, which William the conqueror confirmed in these terms as regards that particular statute: *De treis Chemins, co est a saveir, Watlingstrete et Ermingtonstrete et Fos, ki en alcun de ces chemins occit homme qui seit errant per le pais, u assalt, si enfreit la pais le Rei.*<sup>1</sup>

The early road from Grantham to the Ermyn Street was the Saltway track, used by pack horses, crossing the Witham at Salter's Ford, where the Great Northern Railway now crosses that river. In early times, the Witham formed a small lake at this point, and was shallow and fordable. The Drift Way over Spitalgate Hill was not made a Turnpike road till 1725.

<sup>1</sup> Ingulph. Croyl.

## St. Wolfran.

---

GRANTHAM Church is dedicated to St. Wolfran : the name is written Vulphran, Vuilfran, and Wufrann. Ancient Documents of the 13th century, written at Grantham and still preserved, are dated from the feast of St. Wolfran the Bishop. In deeds of about the 15th century, the Church seems called St. Wolstan's, but this is a mistake made by the writer or copyist.

Though the Church was called St. Wolfran's in Saxon times, as Domesday proves, I have not succeeded in connecting the Church or neighbourhood with any occurrence recorded in the Life of St. Wolfran.

And but for the fact, that the feast of St. Wolfran the Bishop, is used as a common date in legal documents executed at Grantham in the 13th century ; and that Wolfran was a common christian name in Grantham as late as the sixteenth century ; I should have concluded that the Church was dedicated to St. Wulfrun, a Saxon lady, from whom Wolverton and Wolverhampton are named, and who gave large estates for Church purposes in the seventh century.

The early British Churches were of wood,<sup>1</sup> and seem, in some instances, to have obtained their Saint's name from the name of the benefactor who rebuilt them of stone : there may have been a wooden Church at Grantham before the days of St. Wolfran. There was a MS. Life of St. Wolfran, probably

<sup>1</sup> Guthlac oratorio contentus erat ligneo. Ingulph.

by Jonas, Bishop of Orleans in 820, among the Cottonian MSS.; but it perished in the fire which damaged that library in 1781.

His life, and the history of his pretended miracles, fill twenty-two closely printed double-columned folio pages of the Acta Sanctorum of the Bollandists: but the facts stated are few and doubtful.

Wolfran, son of Vulbert, a Knight attached to the Court of Dagobert, King of France, was born at Milly, near Fontainebleau, in the ancient Gastinois, of which town his father was Lord. He was educated at the Court of the French King, and having given his patrimony to the Abbey of Fontenelle or St. Vandrille, near Rouen, was elected Archbishop of Sens about the year 698. In 700 he went as a Missionary to convert the Frieslanders, sailing for that purpose from Rouen with several Monks of Fontenelle; he spent five years in this work, and afterwards having resigned his Bishopric, became a Monk of Fontenelle Abbey, where he died March 20th, 741, and where he was buried. It is said that his body was found undecayed eleven years after his burial; he was canonized; and his remains translated to Abbeville, where two Churches, one Parochial, the other Collegiate, are dedicated to St. Wolfran. These two Churches and that of Grantham are the only Churches that I know of as being dedicated to him; unless there was, or is still, a Church of St. Wolfran at Ghent: which town disputed with Abbeville the possession of his genuine relics.

In 1662, his tomb at Abbeville was opened, and the report then drawn up states, that the life of the Saint by Jonas, and the record of his translation, dated 1205, were found perfect with his bones.

The 15th day of October was observed as his day, being the day of his translation.

The particulars recorded of St. Wolfran are such as are usually found in Popish Biographies of Saints, and too puerile to deserve extracting. One anecdote, however, divested of the

fictions that disfigure it, represents him as a true Missionary Bishop, acting on the shores of Friesland much as the present Bishop Selwyn is acting on the shores of the South Sea Islands.

Two children of a poor widow, we are told, were about to be sacrificed by the idolatrous inhabitants to propitiate the sea, and were left on the rocks to be swept away by the rising tide. As the elder was holding his little brother in his arms to raise him above the swelling waters, St. Wolfran hastened to the spot, and rescuing the children, restored them to their mother, baptized, and instructed them.

Hugo Candidus, in his Chronicle of Peterborough, gives a list of burial places of Saints, and states that St. Wolfran lay buried at Grantham. He says, that he gives this list in order that if any one has need to repair to any particular Saint, he may know where to find him.

Hence, St. Wolfran is said by some to lie buried at Grantham: but the statement of Hugo Candidus is not conclusive, it proves at most that some of his relics were shewn at Grantham.

Ingulphus, a Monk at Fontenelle, who was appointed Abbot of Croyland by William the Conqueror in 1072, states that St. Wolfran's tomb and relics were then at Fontenelle, and that he brought with him to Croyland the right arm of St. Wolfran, but I cannot find it stated that any portion of his relics were ever brought to Grantham: there was, however, in early times much intercourse between Croyland and Grantham.

There is on the South face of the South West buttress of Grantham Church a canopied niche and bracket, on which some image, no doubt that of St. Wolfran, once stood.

## Thurgar, Priest of Grantham.

MCXIV.

---

THE Excursionist from Grantham who visits the fragmentary remains of Croyland Abbey, should seek to discover, by examining the relative positions of other parts of the ruins, where stood the most Eastern column of the South range of the chancel pillars: even if he cannot satisfy himself as to its position, he may yet feel an interest in the site by remembering that in the year 1114, now 742 years ago, the Priest of Grantham, Thurgar, laid the first stone of that pillar.<sup>1</sup> Thurgar, Priest of Grantham, with his two Deacons, Givo and Eilward, accompanied by two hundred and twenty men of Grantham, came to the laying of the first stones of the Croyland Abbey Church, then about to be rebuilt. The number of persons from Grantham who attended the ceremony is greater than that from Deeping or any other place mentioned, a proof either of a greater population in Grantham than in Deeping, or of greater interest felt by the Grantham people in the work; they also made an offering on the stone laid by their Minister of ten marcs towards the building of the pillar.

We can account for the interest felt by the Priest of Grantham in the renovation of Croyland Abbey, not only from our learning that relics of St. Wolfran were kept at Croyland, and Grantham Church is dedicated to St. Wolfran, but also by connecting the name of Thurgar, Priest of Grantham, with Croyland.

<sup>1</sup> Petri Blesensis ad Ingulphi Hist. Continuatio. The work of Peter of Blois not being very common, and the whole account of the ceremony interesting as containing references to names and places in the neighbourhood of Grantham, I have given a translation of the Narrative at the end of these Notes.

Thurgar's name is still preserved in Thurgarton, the town of the Thurgars in Saxon times. One of the family was held in great veneration at Croyland.

In 870, when the Danes burnt Croyland and Peterborough, this Thurgar was a chorister at Croyland : as the Danes approached, the younger Monks fled, carrying away relics and charters ; the Abbot and the aged partook of the Holy Communion, the choristers being in the choir ; the Danes broke in and slew the Abbot at the altar and the old Monks round him and the boys ; but the artlessness of young Thurgar, then but ten years old, moved with pity the Danish Earl Sidroc, who lowering his sword raised to slaughter him, plucked the cowl from the boy's head, threw a Danish hood over him, and bade him keep close to him for safety.

Following the Danes, seven days after, young Thurgar saw Peterborough assaulted, but in the attack, Lubba, brother of the Danish Earl Hulba, was struck down, and his fall so exasperated Hulba against any of Saxon blood, that Sidroc warned the boy never to let Hulba see his face, lest he should kill him.

Young Thurgar escaped from his captors shortly after, found his way back to the smouldering ruins of Croyland, rejoined the Monks who had escaped from the Danes, and lived among the ruins and in the desolate swamps around as a hermit for 85 years, when Turketil, coming to rebuild it after its long desolation, found him an old man able to inform him of the former glories of the place. Thurgar lived to see Croyland rebuilt completely in 966, dying in 975 at the age of 115.<sup>1</sup>

The name was honourable at Croyland, and when the Abbey which had again been destroyed by fire in 1091, was now again, 1114, to be rebuilt, it was natural that Thurgar, the Priest of Grantham should be an invited and honoured guest, bringing with him as he did the memory and the name of Old Thurgar.

1 From Ingulphus.

## Matilda, Queen and Heiress of England.

---

MATILDA, Queen and Heiress of England, was sometime patroness of Grantham Church, and Lady of the Manor; and the dates of several events connected with the town depend on our ascertaining which, among the many English Princesses who bore the name of Matilda, is meant by the above description.

Every one who reads Mr. Turnor's History of Grantham must admire the happy industry with which he collected and used materials for the work. But he was furnished with incorrect transcripts of some Public Records and thereby misled on some points. For instance, he read "the first year of Edward the Third," whereas it is "the third year of Edward," Edward the First, of course. The perplexing contractions in the text of the Manuscript Records account for such mistakes.

Mr. Turnor also had an incorrect transcript of the title of the Queen Matilda, referred to by a Grantham jury as once having been Lady of the Manor; and he concluded that Matilda Queen of the Conqueror was meant. But this cannot be; for the Grantham jury state that she acted with the consent of the then Bishop of Lincoln, whose name they do not remember. Now Matilda, Queen of the Conqueror, died in 1083, and there was no Bishop at Lincoln in her days. Remigius, the first Bishop, was not seated there till 1085.

The Princess alluded to must have been Matilda, daughter of Henry the First, commonly known as the Empress Matilda,

because her first husband was Henry, Emperor of Germany. After the death of her only brother, who perished in the White Ship on the Catte Raze rock, she was her father's only child, and being left a widow soon after, and coming to live with her father Henry the First, he enacted that a woman might lawfully wear the English crown; and made all his nobles (and Stephen, afterwards King,) swear fealty to her as their future Sovereign; thenceforward we find her described as "formerly Empress," and spoken of as Queen. Her father moreover, at his death, bequeathed all his Realm of England and Normandy to her, hence the title Heiress of England.

But she never reigned; for Stephen usurping the throne, and she marrying again, her son succeeded Stephen as Henry the Second: but the title, Heiress of England, became the more appropriate to her on Stephen's usurpation of her rights, as asserting her right and that of her son Henry the Second.

The titles, Queen and Heiress of England, thus seem to suit no other Princess Matilda but her, and in this work it is assumed that she was meant by that designation.

Matthew Paris says of her, "*Cujus Anglia erat*," the Princess to whom England belonged by right: and Wyckes in his Chronicle calls her "*hæres regni*," heiress of the kingdom.

Spelman tells us that her son Henry the Second declared void all charters and grants she had signed with the title "*Domina Anglorum*," Lady of the English; which was the title the Normans gave her. This proves that though she never reigned as Queen, yet she gave charters, which Henry the Second declared null, probably that he might enact fines for renewing them, or to mark his disapprobation of her ever using any title but that of Queen. And Edward the First, in a letter to the Pope, deduces his rights from her as heiress of Henry the First. Cl. Rot. 29 Ed. I.

# The Grantham Hundred Roll.

MCCLXXV.

---

THE MS. of this Document was preserved in the Tower, and printed by authority in 1812. Only two small portions of the parchment are illegible. It is a statement on the oath of twelve men of the Hundred, to the best of their knowledge, as to the tenure of the Town and Soke, the rights of the Lord of the Manor, and abuses in the Town, in 1275. 3rd Edward 1st.

The jury being asked what Manors have usually been in the hands of the King (Edward the First) or of his predecessors, answered, that "Matilda, Queen of England and heiress, once had Grantham with the whole Soke in her own hands, and afterwards gave it to Tankerville, the Chamberlain, with the whole Soke, which was a Royal Soke of the King's: and the said Chamberlain enfeoffed ten knights in the Soke, some of them with land worth £10, which lands others now hold whose names the jury cannot recollect;<sup>1</sup>—the town of Grantham, and when Normandy was lost, King John, the present King's Grandfather, took the town of Grantham into his own hands

<sup>1</sup> The MS. is imperfect here and some words almost illegible, the jury seem to mean that, though they could not name the holders of the land they were agreed that it lay in the Wapentakes.

because the said Chamberlain rebelled against him, but how long he held it they do not know. And afterwards the King gave the whole Lordship of the Soke to William Earl Warenne, &c."

The grant of Grantham by Matilda to De Tankerville is confirmed by the independent Statement of the Beltisloe Hundred jury; and the whole deposition is confirmed by History. But it must be observed that the jury gave only a summary of events. There is a break in the MS. and so "the said Chamberlain" may not be intended to mean the first Grantee, which indeed could not be the fact, for a William de Tankerville got Grantham first; and his descendant, Ralph de Tankerville, lost it. The De Tankervilles were Chamberlains of Normandy, the office was hereditary in the family.

## Lords of Grantham.

---

PROPERTY in Saxon times was granted so as to descend to a man's heirs in perpetual succession ; but the Norman Kings asserting their right to the whole land, granted portions to favourites to be held only during the King's pleasure, or for life, seizing it repeatedly, granting it anew, or subdividing it, to the confusion of the enquirer into the succession of Lords of Manors.

It is proposed in this chapter to give an account of the persons who have been Lords of Grantham. The term Manor was unknown in England before the Norman Conquest, and the title Lords of the Manor does not seem adequate to define their tenure, which, when fullest, is described as consisting of the Castle, Manor, Town, and Lordship of the whole Soke. There were originally ten Knights' fees in land in the Soke, and Cowell considers that every such Knight's fee was a Manor in itself, a parcel Manor. And we find in the old Documents, persons Lords of parcel-Manors, or members, of the Soke.

It seems impossible to define the possessions of Editha, wife of King Edward the Confessor, in Grantham : Domesday describes them as a Manor, or the Manor : and this seems to intimate that she had the Lordship. She died in 1076.

Matilda, Queen of the Conqueror, on the birth of her son

Henry, afterwards Henry the First, settled all her lands in England on him, to have them at her death. He had Grantham. It is called a Royal Soke of the King's, when his lands are mentioned; but whether it was part of his mother's bequest to him, or whether the Conqueror and William Rufus had held Grantham, and so it was a heirloom in the Royal family, I cannot ascertain.

Henry the First married Matilda of Scotland in 1101, and it seems most probable that Grantham was settled on her at her marriage, for after her death, the King gave it to their only daughter the Empress Matilda, about 1120; and she gave Grantham to the Chamberlain of Normandy, WILLIAM DE TANKERVILLE,<sup>1</sup> no doubt as a reward for his services in defeating the Earl Mellant, Hugh de Montfort, and Hugh son of Gervase, when they suddenly invaded Normandy in 1124, and de Tankerville, collecting some troops, took them prisoners and brought them to the King.<sup>2</sup>

His son WILLIAM DE TANKERVILLE succeeded him in the Lordship of Grantham; but in 1173, went over to the Normans, then in rebellion against the King, Henry the Second; he seems, however, not to have taken any active part in the rebellion; but, repenting of his rash step, joined in the Crusade, and was at Acre in 1190, where probably he died.<sup>3</sup>

Meantime the King having seized Grantham gave it to RANULPH GLANVILLE, Earl of Chester, in compensation for lands in Normandy which he had lost through the rebellion, and he held Grantham conditionally, the King stipulating that if the De Tankervilles were reconciled to him, they should have Grantham, all but the Manor, which Ranulph was to retain, and the King would compensate the De Tankervilles for it.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Called the Elder, Pat. Rolls, Henry III. Described as Relative, Counsellor, and Chamberlain of King Henry the First. See Leibnitz, Codex Diplom, vol. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Paris.

<sup>3</sup> See Vinesalve.

<sup>4</sup> Document quoted by Dugdale.

This Ranulph Glanville married in 1188, Constance, widow of Geoffrey, the King's brother,<sup>1</sup> and mother of the unfortunate Prince Arthur, murdered by King John.

In 1199, there was a general reconciliation of Norman Lords with the King, and RALPH DE TANKERVILLE, who appears to have been called Heir of Grantham throughout, acquired Grantham again, and Ranulph recovered his lands in Normandy, a general readjustment of properties then taking place.

But six years after, so sudden were these vicissitudes in Feudal times, Ralph de Tankerville, justly indignant at the murder of Prince Arthur, whose hereditary Chamberlain he was, joined the insurrection in Normandy, in which that Province, for that crime, was lost to England.

*"Ex hoc transgesso Normannia perditur Anglis."*

And the De Tankervilles finally lost Grantham.

#### 1205.

The earliest Charter extant granting Grantham, is by King John, dated 19th April, 1205, it recites that the King gave Grantham, which was Ralph de Tankerville's, to WILLIAM EARL WARENNE.<sup>2</sup> William de Warenne's ancestor had married Gundreda, the Conqueror's youngest daughter.

There is a note appended to the Letters Patent of this grant, stating that they were never delivered: they are addressed to the Sheriff of Lincoln, ordering him to give the Earl possession. But the grant took effect. He adhered to King John in his struggles with the Barons, and signed Magna Charta.

Henry the Third, succeeding King John in 1216, directed the following writ to the Sheriff of Lincoln. 'You are directed to cause William de Warenne to have the same seisin of the Soke of Grantham, with all its appurtenances which he had in the days of the King's father, and allow him to hold it peaceably. 22 June, 1 Henry III.'

<sup>1</sup> Henry de Knyghton.

<sup>2</sup> Chart. Rolls.

The term, the same seisin, refers to the fact that the Manor of Grantham was excepted from the Grant, it belonging to the sister of Ranulph Glanville. See following chapter.

William, Earl Warenne, died in 1240; and the King allowed his widow, Matilda, King John's half-sister, to have her husband's property in Grantham and the Soke, as a dowry, during her life-time. She died in 1249, leaving a son John, who did not immediately succeed her in Grantham, for the following reason :

1254,

Henry the Third claimed Grantham and seized it into his own hands, with the whole Soke, maintaining that the Earl Warenne held it only during the King's pleasure;<sup>1</sup> and in 1254 gave it to his eldest son Prince Edward, afterwards Edward the First, on his marriage with ELEANOR, daughter of the King of Castile, as a dowry to that Princess.

Prince Edward's marriage with Eleanor of Castile, appears as one of the articles in the treaty, offensive and defensive, made between Henry the Third and the King, her father; and the English Monarch pledges himself to give her a dowry equal to the best ever enjoyed by an English Queen.<sup>2</sup>

1263.

Nine years after his marriage, Prince Edward gave Grantham with its appurtenances to JOHN EARL WARENNE, son of the preceding William: no doubt for a consideration in money to enable him to go on the Crusade, though this does not appear in the Charter Grant: by which it is given to Earl Warenne to have and hold as entirely and freely as the donor Prince Edward himself held it on the day he signed the grant.

1266.

Henry the Third confirmed his son's grant of Grantham to the Earl Warenne: but recited in the Charter Grant that he

1 Quo Warranto Rolls.

2 Nos eam ditabimus (dotabimus) secundum quod aliqua Regina Anglie melius dotata fuerit.—Addit. ad Math. Paris. Hist.

had given it his son in order that the Manor might not be alienated from the Crown.

## 1281.

John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, was summoned to produce his title to exercise certain prerogatives at Grantham, and appeared. See chapter Quo Warranto.

## 1304.

This Earl held Grantham for forty-one years, until his death at Kennington in 1304. He had married in 1247, when very young, Alicia, half-sister of King Henry the Third; this, probably was one reason for his being allowed to hold the Royal Soke and Manor of Grantham. He was one of the most celebrated of the English Feudal Barons. His life was one of turmoil and strife; he sided always with the Crown against those Barons who upheld the claims of the people and their own; and he was very unpopular and sometimes unsuccessful, having been compelled on two occasions to fly the kingdom. He was buried in the Choir of the Cistercian Priory Church, at Lewes, in Sussex; Gough has figured his tomb and effigy, and Dugdale has preserved his epitaph,

Vous ki passez ove bouche close,  
Priez pur cely ky cy repose :  
En vie comme vous este jadis fu,  
Et vous tel seretz comme je su.  
Sire Jehan de Garenne gist icy :  
Dien de sa alme eit mercy.  
Ky pur sa alme priera  
Trois mil jours de pardon avera.

John Selden says that some of the Earl's hair was preserved and shewn in Lewes Priory in his days.

## 1305.

William Lord of Valence in Poictou, Earl of Pembroke, was Henry the third's half-brother, and on the death of John de Warenne, King Edward the First gave Grantham to Adomar or AYMER DE VALENCE, son of the above William, who held it till his death in 1325.

This haughty Baron when summoned in 1311 to the Parliament, prepared to proceed thither armed, and with armed and mounted retainers ; but this coming to the ears of the King, Edward the Second, a writ was directed to the Earl commanding him to appear peacefully attired.<sup>1</sup> He died childless. His widow, Mary de St. Pol, founded and endowed Pembroke Hall, Cambridge.

The Escheat Rolls preserve the King's brief directing the seizure of Grantham, and of the bodies of the heirs of Aymer de Valence, into the King's custody till his further pleasure is known. No heirs were found, and the King gave Grantham, in 1325, to John de Warenne, second of that name who held it. But this grant did not convey the whole Lordship to him. And lest the Earl should ever maintain that he held it as heir of his ancestor Lord of Grantham, or of any except of the King; the Charter recites expressly that he first made, in writing to the King, a surrender and resignation of the Lordship and Fief, under his own hand : and that then the King granted Grantham to him.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1337.

JOHN DE WARENNE,<sup>3</sup> in this year, had a grant in extension made to him by Edward the Third, giving him the Manor of Grantham in addition to his former holding, but he had hardly received it, when he died.

#### 1338.

On the death of the Earl Warenne, Edward the Third, wishing, as his grant expresses it, more amply to endow and fully maintain the honour (Earldom) of WILLIAM DE BOHUN, Earl of Northampton, gave him Grantham, in part, in 1338 ; and in 1341, extended the grant so as to include the town of Grantham. This Earl died in 1362, and on his death the King allowed his son, HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, though a minor, to have his father's Manor of Grantham, the Knight's

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Rolls.

<sup>2</sup> 3 Charter Rolls.

fees excepted, till he became of age, for an annual rent of 400 marks.<sup>1</sup>

### 1363.

But the CASTLE<sup>2</sup> and Town of Grantham, the King gave to EDMUND OF LANGLEY, his third son, then Earl of Pembroke, afterwards Duke of York, on his marriage with Isabella of Castile. In 1371, Edmund borrowed 2000 marks of his father, and the King appointed one Simon Ward his receiver at Grantham, to hold his son's property there in charge until "the King's most beloved son" should repay the loan. However, in 1399, Edmund of Langley, then Duke of York, obtained from Richard the Second the Manor of Grantham, with its members, forfeited on the attainder of HENRY DE PERCY, Earl of Northumberland, who thus is shewn to have held it. He was attainted for joining Hereford who became Henry the Fourth in the next year. But he held it in the right of his wife Matilda, as appears from the Escheat Rolls.

22 Ric. 2. 1399.<sup>3</sup>

In the same year, Edmund Langley obtained also the whole Soke of Grantham, which had escheated to the King on the death of Richard Byron, Knight, who therefore must have held the Soke about this time.<sup>4</sup>

The arms of Edmund Langley were on "a great East window in Grantham Church in 1662." MS. in Brit. Mus.

In order not to interrupt the account of Edmund Langley's holding of Grantham, it was not stated that John de Warenne, third of that name, held the Manor for a short time about 1387.<sup>5</sup>

### 1415.

On the death of Edmund Langley, Henry the Fifth gave the Lordship of Grantham, Manor and Soke, to EDWARD,<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inquis. post Mortem.

<sup>2</sup> This is the earliest mention I have found of Grantham Castle.

<sup>3</sup> She was his second wife, and it would seem a Lucy, for the arms Percy quartering Lucy were on a great East window in Grantham Church in 1662. MS. in British Museum.

<sup>4</sup> Escheat Roll, 21 Ric. 2.

<sup>5</sup> 6 Charter Rolls.

DUKE OF YORK, the King's brother, who, having led the English Van into action at Agincourt, October 24th, 1415, fell on that field of empty honour, struck through the helmet by the Duke of Alencon, and dying whilst the King stood over and defended his fallen brother.<sup>1</sup>

#### 1420.

Grantham then escheated to the King, who made it a part of the marriage portion of his Queen CATHARINE, daughter of the King of France, whom he married in 1420.

In 1447, Grantham was most probably part of the Dower of Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry the Sixth; but I have not found any grant of it to her.

#### 1461.

Edward the Fourth, on ascending the throne, gave the Lordship and Manor of Grantham, and a certain Hospitium called 'Le George' in Grantham, to his mother CICELY,<sup>2</sup> DUCHESS OF YORK; widow of Richard Plantagenet, his father, who had been slain at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, fought against the Lancastrians under Margaret of Anjou. She had Grantham till her death in 1496.

Note.—This Lady Cicely's daughter Ann, married Sir Thomas St. Leger, whose daughter Ann married Sir George Manners, (Lord Roos), from whom the present Duke of Rutland is descended.

#### 1495.

By Grant of Henry the Seventh, Grantham Manor with its appurtenances was settled on his Queen ELIZABETH of York, daughter of Cicely, after her mother's death.<sup>3</sup>

It is interesting to find in the household expense-book of this Princess Elizabeth, a donation to Jesus Guild at Grantham.

In Henry the Seventh's reign, several statutes were made which greatly modified the tenure of Manors and parcels of

<sup>1</sup> Chronique de Monstrelet.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Copy of Charter. British Museum.

<sup>3</sup> Parliamentary Rolls.

Manors. The Feudal system was nearly extinct. Many of the former Saxon privileges had been recovered, especially as regards the inheritance of paternal estates; and the Crown then defined what its own property was. The following extract from the Parliamentary Rolls of that King's reign, may perhaps fitly close the list of ancient Lords of Grantham.

'Forasmuch as by many and sundry gifts by divers of the King's Progenitors, late Kings of England, to divers persons, of Castles, Manors, &c., which they hold in the right and as parcel of the Crown of this land, the same right is thereby greatly diminished, whereby the King's Highness may not so well bear and support his honour, estate, and dignity, as other Princes, Kings of this land have done. For remedy thereof, it is ordained that, (*among others*), the Manor and Town of Grantham, with the appurtenances, Members, Hamlets, Knights' fees, &c., be resumed and taken into the hands of the King. Also all gifts and grants made to Edmund Langley, sometime Duke of York, by any of the King's predecessors, are annulled and made void.' Parl. Roll. XI Henry 7th.

From the time of Henry the Seventh, the Queens of England successively were Ladies of the Manor of Grantham, except that Edward the Sixth held it during his brief reign. In 1562, Queen Elizabeth granted and confirmed the arms of the Borough. In 1643, Queen Henrietta, wife of Charles the First, having fled to Holland, the rebel Parliament confiscated the Royal property, and gave the Lordship of Grantham to Hugh Piers and Capt. Sampson, two of their creatures. On Sampson's death, Captain Hugh Massey became joint Lord with Piers. At the Restoration it reverted to the Crown.

In 1696, King William the Third gave the Lordship to William Bentinck, one of his followers from Holland, whom he created Earl of Portland. While the Manor was in the Crown, the Earls of Rutland were Stewards.

Queens and Barons, the beauty and strength of the Kingdom, have held Grantham in turn, and the Prince Regent was

numbered among its Burgesses ; but the pride of Grantham is in none of them : the boast of the town is in the pensive boy who, in 1654—1660, conned his lessons at Grantham Grammar School, and mused in its fields ; and in after life, weighed the mass of the Sun, and analysed its imponderable rays, and is known to mankind by the name of NEWTON.

## The Countess of Arundel's Tenure of Grantham,

MCCL.

---

In the Register of Fiefs, made in the reign of Henry the Third, it is entered that the Countess of Arundel holds Grantham and pays no scutage, because it is held in free socage.

The exact date of this entry is uncertain; but William Earl de Warenne was Lord of Grantham at that time. Her tenure of the Manor arose from the following circumstances.

Ranulph Glanville, as has been stated, was Lord of Grantham during its forfeiture by De Tankerville, and if he were reinstated was to restore it to him, retaining only the Manor of Grantham. This Manor Ranulph gave to his sister Matilda, as a marriage portion on her marriage with Earl David,<sup>1</sup> brother of the King of Scotland, in 1190. On her husband's death, about 1218, though William de Warenne was Lord of Grantham, she was not dispossessed, for the reasons stated in the following writ of Henry the Third, 'The King to the Sheriff of Lincoln. 'Know you that Matilda, widow of Earl David, has certified us that she will not marry without our assent and will; and therefore we command you to give her free seisin of the Manor of Grantham, in *Lindeseye*, which was part of her marriage portion, 3 Henry III., 1219.'

Hugo, Earl of Arundel, was her son and married the Coun-

<sup>1</sup> *Liber Feodorum.*

tess de Warenne's sister. She was left a widow when very young, in 1248, and held her mother's Manor of Grantham during her widowhood. This explains the entry made in the Liber Feodorum. This Lady and Lady de Warenne were half-sisters of King Henry the Third, being daughters of King John's widow.

Matthew Paris has recorded a Ciceronian rebuke which she addressed to the King, in 1252, upbraiding him for his disregard of the stipulations of Magna Charta, in which the King, though he attempted a reply, was *satis civiliter redargutus*, very handsomely contradicted, but the lady gained nothing by her indignant eloquence.

## *Grantham, a free Soke.*

---

It is stated that Tenants of Manors in Grantham and the Soke paid no scutage. This was a privilege arising from its being in fact a Royal Property.

Scutage is perhaps best explained in the following extract from Fabyan's Chronicle. "A. D. 1259. In this Parliament was granted to the King a task called Scutage, that is to mean, 40s. of every Knight's fee throughout England. The which extendeth to a great sum of money; for, after divers writers, there be in England, or at those times were, over and beyond 40,000 Knight's fees, which after that rate should extend to six (four?) score thousand pounds and more."

At that time the Earl Warenne's Barony comprised sixty Knight's fees. Madox. Baron. Ang. But a portion only of these were in his Lordship of Grantham.

In 1140, the Burgesses of Grantham and the Tenants of the Soke were assessed at eighteen pounds and one marc of silver, for the King's Donum;<sup>1</sup> this was called Taillage, and must have been a sum equivalent to about £432, at the present day.

Grantham was held in free socage; and though the scutage tax was not exacted in a free Soke, military service was required of the Lord of the town, and of Knights holding Knights' fees in the Soke, and it may be interesting to insert the Writ,

1 Gt. Roll of Exchequer.

directed to John de Warenne when he was Lord of the Manor and Soke of Grantham, requiring him to do service in the field with the King's army.

By the King at Lincoln, 14th Feb. 1301.

The King (Edward the First) to his beloved and faithful John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, greeting.

'Whereas we intend to proceed manfully and effectually, by God's help, against the Scots, rebels against us and notorious traitors, persevering in premeditated wickedness and crafty malice; in order to repress their rebellion and contumacy, after the Feast of Whitsuntide next ensuing, on which day, the truce lately granted by us to the said Scots will expire. We affectionately bid and require you to be with us at Berwick upon Tweed, on the Feast of St. John the Baptist next ensuing, with horses and arms, so magnificently and fitly appointed, that by the help of you and our other faithful subjects, (to whom we have given similar orders,) the unbridled pride and obstinate rebellion of the aforesaid traitors may be quenched, so that by the labour and help of men such as you, successes ensuring an honourable and durable peace may be achieved for ourselves, for our Crown, and for our Realm of England.'

John Haryngton, though upwards of 80 years of age, was returned by the Sheriff as holding land in Lincolnshire worth £40 yearly; and he and Simon of Londonthorpe were directed on this occasion to provide themselves with horses and arms without delay, and to be ready and present on Midsummer-day, 1301, to march into Scotland. Richard Haryngton was similarly summoned, but labouring under protracted illness, his brother Baldwyn went, served in his stead, returned and lies buried in Grantham Church with others of the family. If the inscriptions on their graves have not been destroyed, they will be found under the plaster on the wall, and beneath the floor of the pews near the canopied Tomb in the South wall of the Church, on which are still the arms of Haryngton.

## The Quo Warranto Rolls.

---

THE Report of Edward the First's Commissioners charged to enquire into abuses, led to the summoning of John de Warenne before the justices itinerant at Lincoln in 1281, to produce the warrant under which he exercised certain privileges in Grantham. The Earl appeared in person and produced the Charters already alluded to by which he held Grantham, and pleaded that they gave him in Grantham all the rights the King had as Lord of the Town and Manor before him.

The jury had presented him as having, by what Warrant they do not know, a prison, a pillory, and a gallows at Grantham, and as levying a toll called Thurstol :<sup>1</sup> also as having his own coroners, levying tolls on goods weighed, also on wool weighed, and as granting markets and fairs.

The Earl disclaimed his right to have his own coroner and prison, and pleaded that he had only stocks ; but claimed his rights to the market and fair, to waifs and to Thurstol, and to have a gallows in Grantham, because the King had all these when Lord of the Manor.

Gilbert of Thornton appeared to oppose for the King, and argued that no length of tenure could entitle a subject to ap-

<sup>1</sup> A Toll of Saxon times, probably levied at the town gates.

point his own coroner, have his own prison and gallows, to grant markets and fairs, and claim waifs ; these rights being in the Crown. And John of Creysacre, the Senescal of Henry Earl of Lincoln, expressly deposed that there neither was nor could be any lawful prison in the county, but only the prison at Lincoln. As to the Thurtol which the Earl levied in Grantham, Gilbert de Thornton argued that he had no right to levy it, for he did not shew on what wares, or at what places, or to what amount, such a toll was leviable. As he claimed similar rights at Stamford, the two enquiries were merged, it would seem, into one ; and after adjournment, heard ; and the Earl being asked what more he had to say, answered that he thought he had sufficiently answered ; but the decision was adverse to him ; though whether on all points does not exactly appear.

Other investigations into the claims of this powerful subject seem to have followed, until exasperated at being required to produce charter after charter, history says, that he drew his father's old sword from its sheath and shewed it as the instrument by which his lands and rights were won, and by which he was willing to maintain them.<sup>1</sup>

The trial above alluded was one of great importance to the rights of the Crown, and to the liberties of the subject.

1 Baker's Chronicle.

## Wapentakes of Winnibriggs and Trehowl.

---

It seems reasonable to suppose that a Wapentake originally meant a district, all the men in which mustered at one and the same place, whenever the county was called to arms, and the boundary of such district was the limit of Weapon-taking for a separate muster or rendezvous.

There is an insignificant bridge over the Mowbeck on the Harlaxton road, called Winnibriggs, which gives its name to the Wapentake. St. Winifred was considered the patroness of springs and natural wells; a spring still rises near the bridge, and may in former times have been called St. Winifred's well, till her name was transferred to the bridge built across the stream. Winifred was anciently written Winifretha, and Winnibriggs Winethbriggs, which may slightly confirm the suggested origin of the word.

The Earl de Warenne's lordship extended over 71 carucates of land in Winnibriggs, and 52 carucates 8 oxgangs in Trehowl:<sup>1</sup> if the carucate contained 120 acres, as the best authorities say, Earl Warenne's Lordship in Grantham and the Soke comprised 14,856 acres.

The Sheriff of Lincoln appointed one Bailiff for both Wapentakes.<sup>2</sup> There was a Bailiff of Grantham town, appointed by the Lord of the Manor. When a writ was to be executed in

1 Liber Feodorum.

2 Hundred Roll.

Grantham and the Soke, the Sheriff sent the writ to the King's Bailiff of the Wapentakes, who merely communicated an extract to the Bailiff of Grantham, and any other Bailiffs in the Soke, but required them to accompany and assist him in executing the writ; and he made the return to the Sheriff. By this machinery the aid or Taillage of £18, exacted from Grantham by King Henry the Third, was levied; the Sheriff, Gilbert of Cheles, received the whole, but paid only £14 into the Exchequer. Another Sheriff, James of Ponton, succeeding him, had to make good the deficiency, and levied it again on the unhappy town.

In 1318, Grantham and the Soke were required to provide fifteen able-bodied footmen armed, for service against the Scots; and the same number in 1324, to serve abroad against the Flemings.

## Bailiffs of the Town as Magistrates.

---

THE County was governed by the Vice Earl, or Sheriff, who appointed the King's Bailiff of the Wapentakes of Trehow and Winnibriggs, and the Lord of the Manor appointed the Bailiff of Grantham whose jurisdiction was confined to the Liberties, the limits of the town.

In 1275, the Sheriff, Richard de Haryngton, as his predecessors had done, farmed the Bailiwick of Trehow and Winnibriggs, for 14 marks per annum, to John of Harrowby, then King's Bailiff of the Soke, who held his court every year at Michaelmas, clandestinely, without any proclamation or summons, whereas eight days' notice was usual; and he fined the people arbitrarily, to the amount of 40 shillings yearly. This John of Harrowby died before proceedings could be taken against him.

Against the Bailiff of the Soke, John Tenche, similar complaints were made. He was presented by the Hundred jury in 1275, for having imprisoned a certain honest man, one John Pigeon, of Grantham, falsely, charging him with having insulted and threatened him, and would not release him till he had given him 20 shillings, and they assessed the damages at 40 shillings.

Also for having arrested and imprisoned William Gilliot of Syston, charging him with stealing two fleeces, which in fact came from Gilliot's own sheep, and though Gilliot offered twelve sureties, he could not be heard in his defence till he had given John Tenche half a mark. Damages assessed at 20 shillings. Also for arresting Matilda, daughter of Richard of

Denton, charging her with having stolen an earthen pitcher, which she had in fact bought in Grantham market for one farthing, and was trying to get it exchanged for a sound one, because she discovered that it was cracked. He detained her till she had given him one mark. The jury thought 20 shillings proper damages as a compensation to the said Matilda for her loss and the reflection cast on her character.

This John Tenche not only wrongfully imprisoned the innocent, he took bribes to shield or let off the guilty.

Emma Cat, of Denton, stole three yards of camlet, worth six shillings, and pawned it with one Ralph Bond, of Harlaxton, for two shillings; but John Tenche took a bribe of 20 shillings from Emma Cat and let her off, and also took the camlet and 6s. 8d. as a bribe from Bond, having the cloth in his possession, and yet charged him for receiving stolen goods. He had a habit also of pursuing thieves till they were beyond the Liberties, at Braceby, for instance, and then exacting money from them on threat of arresting them. But this rogue also was dead before the justices itinerant came their rounds again.<sup>1</sup>

In the thirteenth century, the town is spoken of as a Burg or Borough, and the people as Burgesses; a Burg was a walled not a Corporate town.

The Abbey of Peterborough had lands in Grantham, about St. Peter's Hill, from before the Conquest. William de Tankerville gave a portion of land in the Manor of Grantham to the Abbey of St. Edmund, Bury St. Edmunds, in frank almoigne, which King John by writ directed should be secured to that Abbey when he confiscated De Tankerville's property. It is most probable that the land of St. Edmund's Abbey in Grantham consisted of that which is now called the Grange.

The Templars, settled at Temple Bruer, also had property in the town, the present Angel Inn.

Other religious societies, in process of time, obtained small

1 These facts are taken from the Hundred Roll.

holdings in Grantham, but the above mentioned were the earliest.

The several Abbots had every one his court of suits and service, his pound and other contrivances for inventing and creating fines. The Prebendaries also of the Parish Church, as well the Abbots and Lords, claimed the assize of bread<sup>1</sup> and of other necessaries among their respective tenants.

It is difficult to form a true notion of such a state of things and its bearing and effects upon the condition of a town. But the system may still be found in operation in the Turkish Pashalic. The sole discoverable object of persons in power during the Feudal times, was exaction. In England it was the pressure and grasp of the Pope's left hand with which he and his crushed temporal liberty, as with his right hand he crushed Spiritual rights.

These instances have thus been noticed to illustrate the administration of the law in Grantham, when it was in the hands of the Feudal Baron's Bailiff and Senescal, and as interesting by way of contrast with the system for the government of the Borough introduced by a Charter of Incorporation. The rights of the Saxon people which had been handed over to a Feudal Lord of the Manor, were gradually restored to the town by Borough Charters.

The Charter of Richard the Third, A. D. 1483, made the Alderman and twelve Comburgesses Justices of the Peace within the Town and Soke, authorized them to have a prison, to hold sessions by writ of the Alderman directed to the Bailiff of the Liberties, to elect their own Coroner, Recorder, and other officers, to receive tolls, to have the assize of bread and the standard of weights and measures, and the execution and return of writs coming into the town.

The Corporation thus acquired some of the powers formerly vested in the High Sheriff of the County, and those of the King's Bailiff, with some of the former prerogatives of the Lord.

1 The right of fixing the price at which it was to be sold.

## Queen Eleanor's Cross.

---

At the upper end of High-street, where it widens out West of St. Peter's Hill, stood a Cross of Stone, recording the resting of Queen Eleanor's corpse, at Grantham, in November, 1290.

It was destroyed, together with other time hallowed monuments at Grantham, by the Parliamentary soldiers in the Civil War, most probably in 1645, when the town was garrisoned by the rebels under Colonel Rossiter.

At the Alderman's Court, held Feb. 19, 1846, at the Guildhall, Grantham, it was ordered that the town Constables should recover, from those inhabitants who had appropriated them to their own use, as many as possible of the stones which came off the cross at the upper end of High-street, commonly called the Queen's Cross, and carry and lay them in the Church.

A Mr. Howgrave, apparently in a letter addressed to Gough, the Editor of Camden, says, "I saw a stone carved with foliage work, said to be part of it, and I believe it, seeming of that sort of work." This must have been in Charles the Second's reign.

The route which Queen Eleanor's funeral convoy followed, and the place from which it first moved, have been matters of dispute. The place where she died is also very variously given by the old and modern Chroniclers.

Miss Strickland says, the Queen of Edward the First expired near Grantham, following, I suppose, Wyckes, who says, *apud Grantham*, at Grantham ; and his authority ought to have weight, for he lived and wrote in her days. As most Chroniclers state Herdeby to have been the name of the Village at which she died, I suppose Wyckes thought it was Harrowby, which in the time of Queen Eleanor was written Herierdeby, and must have been pronounced Herdeby. But the question is set at rest by documents in Lincoln Cathedral, where the Brief of Edward the First endowing a Chantry for the soul of Queen Eleanor in the Chapel of Herdeby, near Clifton, County Nottingham, is preserved ; with another document endowing the Cathedral with the Manor of Navenby for the maintenance of that Chantry, and also charging it with a payment of ten marks yearly to the Chantry Priest officiating at Herdeby, Notts. The Liber Ecclesiasticus of Henry the Eighth, confirms the fact. The Chantry was removed to Lincoln Cathedral afterwards, as her bowels were buried there ; her heart in the Grey Friars' Church, in London, and her body at Westminster.

The only historian who gives the place of Eleanor's death correctly, is the writer of Mrs. Markham's History of England, who says that she died at Harby, Notts. ; a village which I find called Herdeby in Edward the First's days.

As Wyckes, a good authority generally, says positively that she died at Grantham, and that the convoy moved from thence towards London, I have given above the results of my enquiry into the facts.

Most of the writers who have mentioned Grantham, mention the existence of the Cross, but none seem to have seen it.

When discussing the probability of Harrowby having been the place of her death, it struck me that the very ancient oak in which life still lingers, as it stands knee-deep in the gorse upon the Western slope of Harrowby hill, deserves to be recorded among the antiquities of Grantham ; and that time honoured tree must have been in its prime, and shedding its

brown leaves before the November winds, 557 years ago, when the faded form of Edward's beloved Queen, *La Reine Cherie*, was borne through Grantham.

On July 27, 1466, there passed through Grantham, the solemn pomp of the progress of Richard Plantagenet's corpse from the Priory of St. John, at Pontefract, to its final resting place at Fotheringhay. His coffin lay on a funeral car drawn by seven horses, the figure of an angel robed in white, stood at the feet of the bier, bearing in his hand a crown, to signify that had he lived he would have reigned. He had been slain at the Battle of Wakefield, Dec. 30, 1460. His widow held the Lordship of Grantham and its Soke, and owned the George hostelry as her private property, which she left in remainder to Fetheringhay Priory, her husband's and her own burial place. She may have joined the funeral procession from her house, the George; her son, Edward the Fourth, led it, and next to him came Richard Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third.

## The Grey Friar's Priory,—the Grange.

---

THE Grey Friars or Minorites settled at Grantham first in 1290, and located themselves at the Grange, on the West side of the Market Place. The history of this brotherhood is deserving of some notice. The Early Monastic Orders claim our respect; the ancient Monk, and the cloistered recluse of some great Monasteries to the last, was generally a serious and thoughtful man; history and some elegant and useful arts employed his leisure; he transcribed the records of past times or chronicled the events of his own, and thus laboured for the instruction of those generations which should live on the earth when he had entered into his rest. He spent his days in worshipping according to the light he had; in cultivating the Abbey Garden with skill and care; in writing or illuminating Books with exquisite accuracy and taste; a tenant of the Cloister and of the Cell, hardly ever seen beyond the walls of his Monastery. But when the Mendicant Orders were established, swarms of men joined them who found attractions in the vagrant habits of the begging Friar; and in the profession, a cloak for iniquity. The Friar then became the Monk of the Novelist. Their numbers caused a confusion of the Orders which all gradually merged into the Grey Friars.

They owe their appellation Grey, to the colour of their habit, the origin and reason of which is amusingly given by an old writer as follows.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rodolphus Hospinianus. De Orig. Monachatus. Lib. vi.

When by a Council held at Lyons in 1274, the various Orders of Friars had been reduced to four : a question arose among them as to what should be the colour of the Franciscan's dress, whether it should be the white outer habit of the Carmelites, or the black habit of the Dominicans. The Monasteries were shaken by the vehement disputes on the question. One side argued that if all wore white, since died stuffs were out of the question, great inconvenience would be felt in those countries where black sheep predominated ; the opposite party reasoned that there were many countries where there were no black sheep. The Elders interposed to prevent violence, and referred the matter to the Pope ; the Pope to the College of Cardinals : forty years of doubts and hopes to either party elapsed before the Vatican could hit on the obvious solution of the difficulty, a grey garment, the woof black, the weft white.

This decision produced uniformity of hue and peace throughout the Monastic World, and the Grey Friars so increased in numbers and served the Pope so well, that he allowed them to invade and occupy the Monasteries of other and decaying Orders ; and though the essence of their rule was No Property, they acquired such possessions that Trithemius in 1500 declared that if every one had his rights, the Mendicant Friars would enjoy one third of the world.

When both the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury of the day had been Minorites, they called the one the Sun, the other the Moon, and it was thought wit among them to say, that the orbs of heaven were Grey Friars.

Such were the Grey Friars, a society of which occupied the Grange at Grantham from 1290 till 1540, when Henry the Eighth seized their property, and in 1542 gave their house, church, bells, cemetery, garden, and orchards, to his beloved servant David Bocher, and his beloved page Henry Vincent.

Tanner says that they settled in Grantham in 1290. I think they came from Bury St. Edmund's, where they located themselves in 1256, soon after their first appearance in England.

The Abbey of St. Edmund's had land in Grantham at that time, but at some period parted with it, for it did not belong to them when the Valor Ecclesiasticus was made in 1535. And no grant of land to the Grey Friars in Grantham is found till 1318; four years after they are known by the grant of the Conduit Spring to them, to have had the Grange and to have built there. For these reasons, I conclude that the Grey Friars colonised the Grange from their house at Bury St. Edmund's, settling on land in Grantham belonging to St. Edmunds.

In 1314, the Bishop of Durham gave them a Spring rising on his land in South Gonerby, permitting them to convey the water by pipes to their mansus in Grantham.

In 1318, John Earl Warenne, Lord of Grantham, granted them some land ; and in 1326, made them an annual allowance, by Charter grant, of 32*½* quarters of malting Barley, *brasium*, to be delivered to them from his mill at Grantham, during his pleasure;<sup>1</sup> and in 1334, gave them a messuage in the town.<sup>2</sup>

Henry the Fifth, in 1419, had an enquiry made into the Rights of the Priory of Grey Friars at Grantham, which claimed the privileges of Sanctuary, as if it were a consecrated place ; and resisted, as illegal, attempts to remove, by force, any thieves and malefactors who took refuge in it. I do not find what were the results of the Enquiry.

They also had a copy of, and were included in, the general pardon granted by Henry the Eighth in 1513, for all transgressions of what kind soever committed by the Grey Friars before the 8th of March, 1511.<sup>1</sup> But in 1540, he took away their name and place.

The spring in South Gonerby which Richard Kellawe, Bishop of Durham, gave to the Grey Friars of Grantham in 1314, rises on land which belonged to that See before the Conquest.

<sup>1</sup> Grant enrolled, 11 Edw. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Charter Rolls, Edw. 2 & 3.

In making their requests, the Friars styled themselves Our Beggarhood, *Nostra Mendicitas*. They of the Grange made a reasonable request when they asked for spring water. The Abbot of St. Mary's at York, whose possessions included a great part of Belton and Manthorpe, a few years before had asked for and obtained a grant of the tenth of all venison in the Royal Parks in Yorkshire.

The Grange Gardens of ten acres, on the West side of the Market Place, occupy the site of their house, *mansus*, orchard, garden, paradise or flower garden, barns and stabling, enumerated in Henry the Eighth's gift of the site to Vincent and Bocher. That grant enumerates also their Church and Cemetery: but the Grey Friar's Church in Grantham was not at the Grange.

They claimed the privilege of Sanctuary for the Grange, "as much as if it were a consecrated place," *tanquam locus consecratus*, which seems to intimate that there was not consecrated ground there; no trace of a Church or Cemetery, no human remains nor foundations of a Church are known to have been found there, though the whole site is yearly being disturbed, nor is there even the suspicion of a tradition that a Church ever stood on that ground.

I am disposed then to think, that the Grey Friars obtained and used the Church which stood on St. Peter's Hill.

## Peter Church Hill.—St. Peter's Hill.

---

THE Abbey of Peterborough, called anciently the Abbey of St. Peter in the Borough of Medehamstead, had lands in Grantham before the Conquest, which in the time of Edward the First are described as thirteen tofts in Grantham. The Chartularies of Peterborough allude to their lands in Grantham : and it can scarcely be doubted that St. Peter's Hill and the Abbey House, as an old house standing at the corner of Castle-gate, next St. Peter's Hill, was traditionally called, derived their names from their being part of the lands of Peterborough Abbey in Grantham. I suppose there was in Grantham a Cell or small Religious House, an appendage of the Great Abbey, and that St. Peter's Hill is the site of that House and its Church.

Domesday, in 1085, mentions but one Church in Grantham, St. Wolfran's. But in 1223, there was a Conventual Church at Grantham, which could not have been St. Wolfran's; for the deposition taken respecting the Church of Grantham in 1275, traces the right of presentation to St. Wolfran's up to 1125, thereby proving that it was not a Conventual Church in 1223. In that year, Matthew Paris tells us there were frightful thunder storms, that the lightning struck a Church in Grantham, and that the marks of the injury were shewn 'in that Monastery' at his time : he must be speaking of about 1250, for the accident happened in his life-time, and he died in 1259.

The Cloisters communicating with the Church would be injured by the stroke, and so the traces remained ‘in the Monastery.’

The traditional name of “Abbey House,” given to the houses on St. Peter’s Hill at the corner of Castlegate, the vaulted cellars under it, lately dug up, the circuit of old walls traceable down Castlegate and Elmer Street, shewing a large enclosure of old, are all evidences of some ancient Monastic buildings; and that St. Peter’s Hill was once a Cemetery is proved by the testimony of a superannuated Sexton, who was employed 56 years ago in conveying human remains, dug up on the Hill, to the Charnel House under Grantham Church; a fact confirmed by old and respectable inhabitants, who remember seeing the bones dug up by workmen digging for the foundations of a public Theatre there.<sup>1</sup>

There are perhaps fragments of the Church inserted in a house in a Court in Castlegate; preserved by some mason of taste employed in pulling it down for Vincent and Boucher. The noticeable parts of these fragments are two Norman Corbel Heads, with a portion of pellet-pattern cornice under each.

It was by no means unusual for Monastic societies to dwindle away by the deaths of the Monks, and by the failure of members to supply their places, till no more than three or four brethren remained. And in such cases the Monastery was sometimes peopled by Monks of a different order: and though this was expressly forbidden, the Grey Friars obtained many dispensations from the Pope allowing them to enter on strange Monasteries. Their obtaining the Church of St. Peter and the adjoining Cell, is therefore likely to have happened.

All that we read of Churches that have stood in Grantham can best be accounted for and reconciled with actual evidence,

1 Ordered that a public Theatre be built on Peter Church Hill. Corpor. Records, 1800. But the undertaking was abandoned owing to a dispute as to the ownership of the ground.

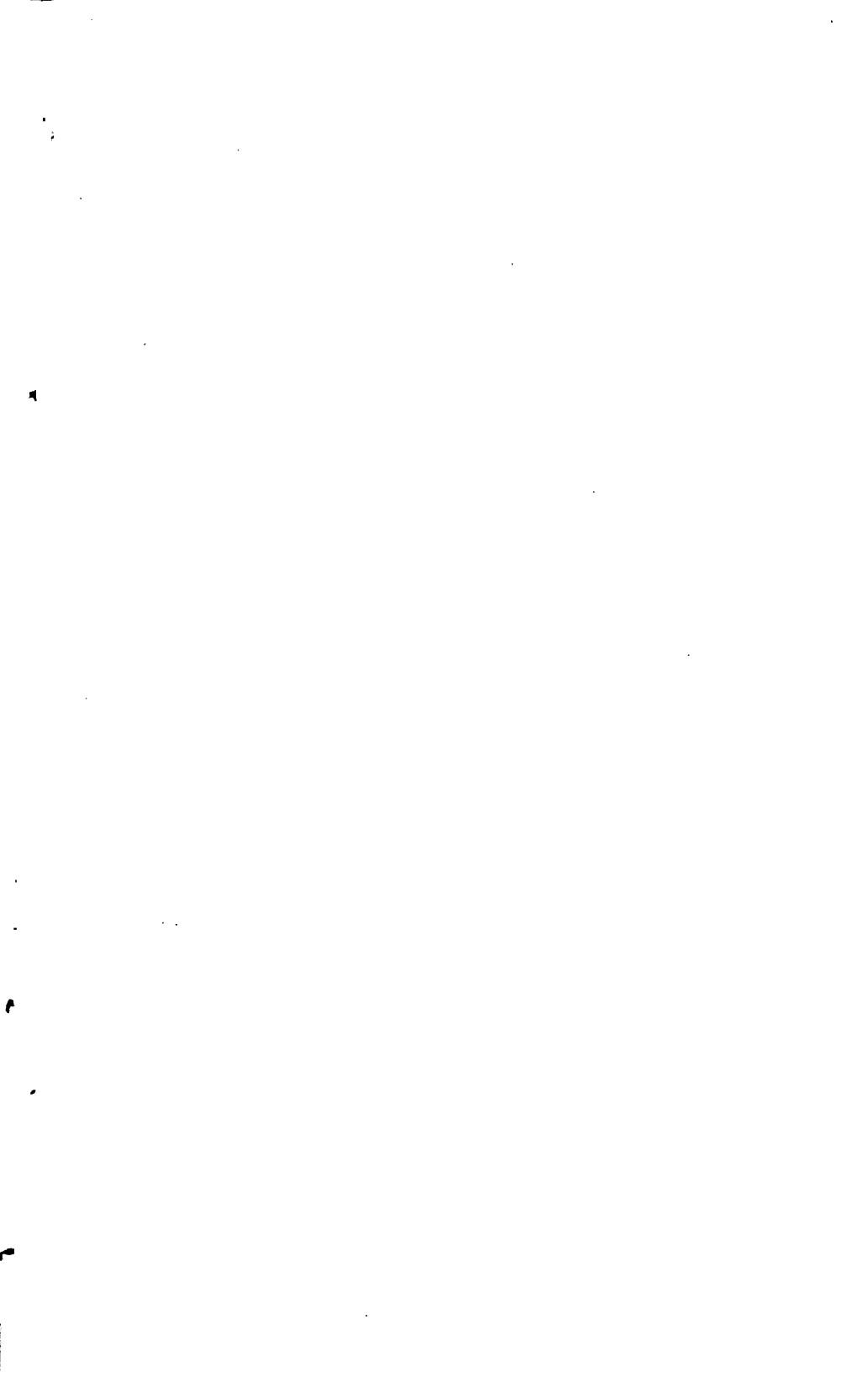
by concluding that there never have been more than two; the parish Church, St. Wolfran's, called the Prebendarial Church; and St. Peter's Church, always Conventual, and at the dissolution belonging to the Grey Friars.

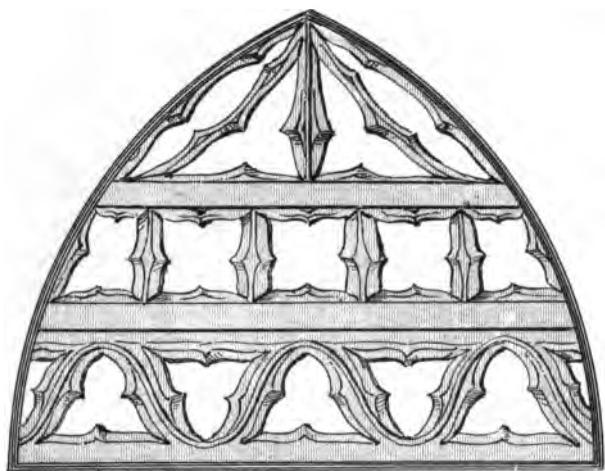
The memorial Cross of Queen Eleanor stood in the centre of the broadest part of the roadway on the West side, where the houses stand on a curve line, so built in order to leave a clear space for the Cross to stand in without blocking up the thoroughfare.

There are some very ancient houses, one still thatched, remaining about here.

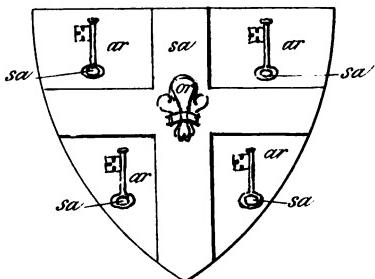
Sir Henry More was born and lived at a house lately pulled down, known as the Orange Tree House; it stood just where the curve terminates Southward.

So late as 1800 the place is called Peter Church Hill.

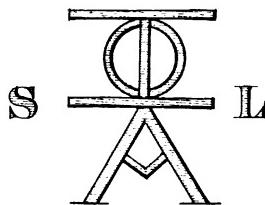




*Window blocked up. North Wall. Grantham Church.*



MERCHANTS OF STAPLE,  
Grantham,  
Glass. - 1585. -



MARK OF  
GRANTHAM WOOL STAPLE,  
Conduit. - 1597. -

## The Town Cistern or Conduit.

---

THE present Conduit, supplied by the water conducted from the springs in Gonerby by the Grey Friars in 1314, was built in "1579," as the inscription on its Eastern face,<sup>1</sup> "Robert Bery, Ald." shews; and from this inscription, and also from the name of one of the then Corporation, "Robert Perkins," on its South face, it appears that it was Borough property at that time. If it was not Borough property, but private, Robert Bery, then the owner of the Grange, (Cistercian's Place,) would hardly have added Alderman to his name on it, and associated that of Robert Perkins with his own. On the North face also is the trade mark of the Grantham Woolstaplers, which is figured, *Plate 2*. In 1636, John Phiper, Plumber, was keeper of the Conduit at a yearly stipend of 30s. In 1646, the Corporation made and levied an assessment of £20 for the repair of the Conduit and Conduit pipes; and in 1655, an order was made against persons *annoying* the Conduit by washing clothes at it. And in the Grant by which Robert Fysher, in 1684, assured it to the town, it is recited that it had heretofore been used and enjoyed by them.

Grantham, from very early times, was supplied with water from "four common and ancient wells," one in the Marketplace, one in Westgate, one in High-street, one in Swinegate.<sup>2</sup> After 1690, water was sold round the town from a licensed water carrier's cart.

It was not until 1850, 536 years after the Grey Friars had supplied themselves with water from the Springs in South Gonerby, that Grantham generally was supplied with pure water from the Springs at Stroxtion.

1 The Church Register proves Mr. Bery to have been Alderman in 1579.

2 From Corporation Books.

## The Angel Inn.

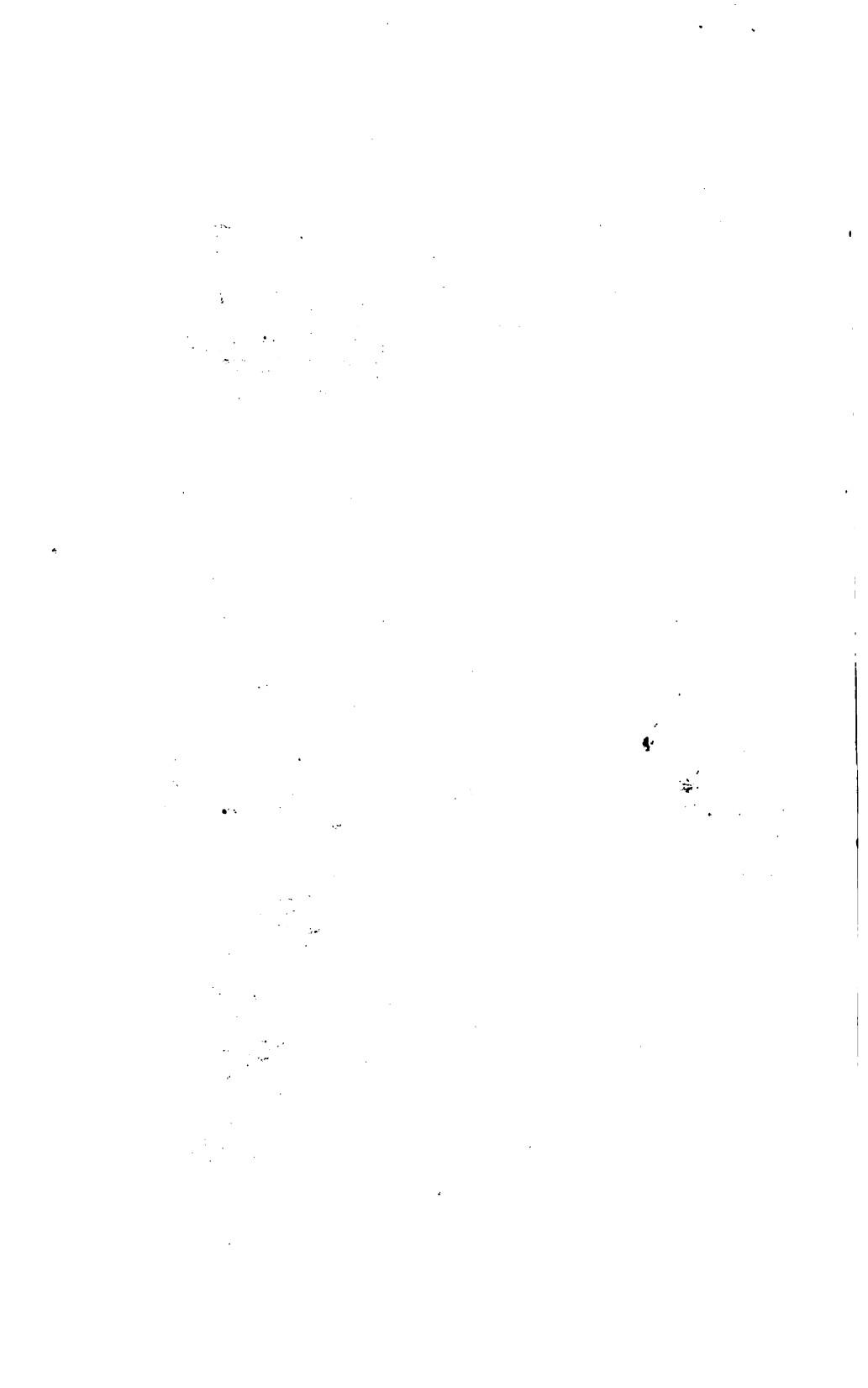
---

GOUGH, in his additions to Camden, has noticed the common tradition that the present Angel Inn was once a Preceptory of the Knights Templars. But such is not the case. I have read a document drawn up at Grantham, October 15, 1291, which certainly refers to the property, as belonging to the Knights Templars, but not as being a Preceptory of the Order. The document in question, the only one I know of as referring to the Templars at Grantham, relates to the transfer of the property from one tenant to another. The one having failed to fulfil the conditions of his tenure, Gilbert de Lincoln obtained it in his stead; the Master of the Knights in England appearing as seized of the property.

The Angel Inn, their property in Grantham, was, it would seem, one of those ancient Hostelries, Hospitia, where Royal and other travellers were entertained; frequented also by Merchants travelling to and from the great Marts of Boston or of St. Omer; as Roger of Belvoir, who is remembered as having been indicted for conveying forty bags of wool in 1274 from Grantham to London, and thence smuggling them beyond sea and selling them at St. Omer, in France. Here also Pilgrims to the Shrine of Thomas à Becket may have rested, as at the Tabard Inn, in Southwark, in Chaucer's times; however the only Pilgrim from Grantham whose name I have met with



ANGEL INN & OLD HOUSE.  
GRANTHAM.



was of later times, Richard Riches, the Hermit of Grantham, who was on his pilgrimage to Rome in September, 1505.

The front of this house is deservedly admired ; the parapet is very beautiful. The gateway-arch is older than the rest of the elevation ; the heads on either side of the arch are those of Edward the Third and his Queen Philippa. Inside, the roofs of the recessed windows are elegantly groined ; the central boss of one represents the Pelican and her young.

King John held his court in this house Feb. 23, 1213. King Richard the Third on Oct. 19, 1483. And Charles the First, in all probability, received in this house the homage of the Alderman of Grantham, Henry Ferman, May 17, 1633.

#### KING JOHN AND KING RICHARD THE THIRD AT GRANTHAM.

On February 23rd, 1213, King John was at Grantham, for on that day, as the Patent Rolls of his reign prove, he sealed and delivered at Grantham Letters Patent granting the release and liberty of Lucian of Arquill, who had been taken the year before at the surrender of Carrickfergus Castle, and committed to the King's prison. He agreed to pay, as the price of his release, 100 marcs to the King, with two saddle horses and ten goshawks, to be delivered at successive periods to the King's Groom and Falconer ; and as sureties for his good behaviour, he gave, as hostages, Thomas his eldest and Galfrid his second sons ; these the King received at Grantham on this occasion, and delivered over to the safe keeping of William de Warenne, then Lord of Grantham.

King John proceeded from Grantham to Nottingham, where he hung, before he dined, twenty-eight sons of Welsh Nobles, hostages for their parents' good behaviour ; the Welsh having rebelled, seized some of his Castles, and beheaded his Garrisons.

As the large room over the gateway of the present Angel Inn was known as La Chambre le Roi, the King's chamber, and is

so described on the occasion of Richard the Third's visit to Grantham in 1483, I conclude that King John staid in this house and held his court in that room, February 23, 1213; and that it obtained its name, in Norman French (*La chambre le Roi*), from having been used by him, and perhaps by other Kings.

In this Room, 19th October, 1483, the terrible hand of Richard the Third clutched the Great Seal from the hasty messenger of the Chancellor, and sealing with it the deed that doomed Buckingham's head to the axe, his troubled spirit, having gratified its angry temper, breathed more freely.

At Lincoln on the 19th, the King had proclaimed the Duke a traitor, and had hastily despatched Champney Gloster, King at Arms, to the Chancellor, John Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, then sick in London, for the great seal, therewith to sign the warrant for Buckingham's death. And the King, moving towards London, met a Clerk of the Chancellor's with the seal at Grantham on the 19th. The seal was delivered to the King "in a chamber called the King's chamber in the Angel Inn, in the presence of the Bishops of Worcester, Durham, St. David's, and St. Asaph, and of the Earls of Northumberland and Huntingdon, and of Sir Thomas Stanley,"<sup>1</sup> In the long room over the gateway, now divided into three apartments, Richard the Third sealed the warrant. The Duke was arrested by the Sheriff of Shropshire, delivered to the King at Salisbury, 2nd November, 1483, and immediately, without sight or speech of the King, without arraignment or judgment, beheaded there in the Market Place.

The Great Seal was kept sealed up under the Privy Seal. The transfer of the seal was a matter of much ceremony and usually recorded by the King's Remembrancer. The unhappy Buckingham had himself been a witness to the delivery of the

<sup>1</sup> Rymer's *Fædera*, xii. p. 203, quoted by Miss Halsted, *History of Richard the Third*, vol. 2, p. 269. Rymer prints Graustun by mistake for Grantham.

Great Seal by King Richard to the Bishop of Lincoln. As the account has been preserved, it may be interesting to give it.

Memorandum. That on Friday, June 27th, 1st year of King Richard the Third, about 3 o'clock after noon, in a certain high chamber near the Chapel in the house of Cicely, Duchess of York, called Baynard's Castle, near the River Thames, in Thames-street, London, the King, in the presence of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, of Norwich and of Exeter, of the Duke of Buckingham, Sir Thomas Stanley, and of John Gunthorpe, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and others, delivered his Royal Great Seal in a certain bag of white leather, sealed with the King's Privy Seal, to John Bishop of Lincoln, whom he then appointed his Chancellor, and committed the keeping of the said seal to him.

The Bishop took the Great Seal to his own residence, called the Old Temple, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn; and when he sent it to the King at Grantham, sealed the bag with his own seal, the device on which was an eagle.<sup>1</sup> From Grantham the King proceeded next day, 20th October, to Nottingham.

As the Angel Inn, in Grantham, was part of the property, though not a Preceptory, of the Templars, it may be interesting to give the actual order for the seizure of their property in England, which describes the manner in which it was carried out in 1308.

They seem to have had no suspicion of the doom that awaited them. The Master of the Knights in England was summoned to King Edward the Second's first Parliament, on the 13th October, 1307. However, two months after, on Dec. 15th of the same year, the King sent the following writ to the Sheriff of Lincolnshire, dated at Westminster.

'The King is about to proceed to parts beyond the seas for a short time. During his absence, he wishes certain matters relative to the peace of the kingdom to be explained to the

<sup>1</sup> Close Rolls, 1 Ric. 3.

Sheriff in a writ which the Sheriff will shortly receive. The Sheriff of Lincolnshire is therefore commanded to warn twelve discreet and trustworthy men, Knights or others, upon whose fidelity he can best rely, to meet him at Lincoln, on the 7th of January, 1308, very early in the morning; at which place and time the Sheriff is to be in person to do and perform what shall be contained in the said writ, and also what he shall be directed to do by the bearer of it.'

On Dec. 20th, the King sent by one of his Clerks of Council, a writ to the Sheriff, in which he was informed that the King's Clerk had another writ to deliver to him.

The writ first delivered to the Sheriff commanded him to swear before the Clerk that he would faithfully act according to the instructions he was going to receive, and not reveal those instructions to any one.

The Sheriff having taken this oath, the Clerk was to deliver the second writ to him; which the Sheriff was to open in the presence of the Clerk; and between them they were to execute it without delay. A similar oath was to be administered to the twelve men summoned as ordered before.

The King's Clerk, employed on this business in Hampshire, who conveyed the instructions to the Sheriff of Southampton, was named John of Grantham.

The writ which the Sheriff was to swear to execute, (before he knew its contents) was as follows :

"On Wednesday, 10th January, 1308, very early in the morning, the Sheriff of Lincoln, with the twelve men summoned and sworn, is to attach and arrest all the Knights Templars in his Bailiwick. All their lands, goods, tenements, chattels, charters, writings, and muniments, are to be seized and secured, and an inventory of them made, in the presence of the Custos of the Templar's house, and two witnesses. The Knights are to be kept in safe custody, but not in a straight or loathsome prison; and to be maintained out of the revenues of the Order."

And on Dec. 26, 1307, the King wrote to the Pope informing him that he fully understood the matters relative to the Knights Templars, concerning which the Pope had written to him, and would cause the same to be despatched in the most speedy and effectual manner.

The Templars were imprisoned in the various Castles of the King. Their fate may be read in histories, but not having met in popular histories with the above documents, I have given them in an abbreviated form from the Public Records.

The Templars had more Church property near Grantham than anywhere else, in the same compass, in England : Rauceby, Caythorpe, and Normanton Church Incomes were heavily charged with payments to them : the endowment of Aslackby Church, all but £1 6s. 8d. yearly, was theirs, also half the endowment of South Witham Church, and the whole of that of Donington.

Their property being seized, as described above, into the King's hands, was, for the most part, given to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, the Knights Hospitallers, who probably got their property, the Angel Inn, in Grantham ; as the arms of the Brotherhood, argent, a plain cross gules, remained on an East window of Grantham Church in 1662,<sup>1</sup> inserted it may be in the place of those of the Knights Templars on their succeeding to their property in Grantham. The Grey Friars got the House of the Templars at Temple Bruer. Bruer is a corruption of the French word bruyere, a heath.

King John was at Grantham August 25, 26, and 27, 1209 ; but whether he was at the Angel Inn cannot be ascertained. All the Records of that year, except the Privy Purse Expense Roll, being lost.

<sup>1</sup> Notes of Arms in Grantham Church, by Gervase Holles, often referred to in this work, they are among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

## Guilds and Chantries.

---

GELD or Guild is a Saxon term meaning a contribution to a fund. The earliest Guilds were for charitable or social purposes, and somewhat similar to the Provident Societies of the present day : afterwards the objects of such brotherhoods became commercial or religious.

There was in most towns, and at Grantham, a common Hall for the meetings of the various Guilds for business or for feasting. It was called indifferently the Common Hall or the Guildhall. Sometimes a wealthy Guild had its own hall.

Every Guild had its Alderman, Treasurer, and Registrar ; also its seal and plate, especially a common cup or a silver-mounted horn ; and often its own cellar, and the brethren prided themselves on the Guild ale.

The Woolstaplers of Grantham had their Guild, their badge or arms was on glass in the Church, and their trade mark is still on the Conduit. These are figured plate 2.

In 1393, some property belonging to a Guild in Grantham escheated, and was recovered for the brotherhood by John Orston and others, most probably the Alderman and brethren of the Guild.<sup>1</sup> And the Princess Elizabeth of York, afterwards Queen of Henry the Seventh, made a donation of 3s. 4d. to Richard Cottune, for the brotherhood of Jesus Guild in Grantham,<sup>2</sup> apparently a Benefit Society. The Guild of St. George is also mentioned. As none of the above are enumerated among the Chantries, of which we have a list, they were not Religious Societies.

<sup>1</sup> Escheat Rolls, 16. Ric. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Privy Purse Expenses of Elizabeth of York.

## RELIGIOUS GUILDS AND CHANTRIES.

There were nine Chantries in the Deanery of Grantham in 1595. One at Harlaxton and another at Boothby Pagnel. The remaining seven were in Grantham. They were the Chantries of Corpus Christi, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. John the Baptist, St. Thomas the Martyr (Thomas à Becket), of the Holy Trinity, and of St. Catharine.

The Guilds of Corpus Christi, like Guilds of the Immaculate Conception in the present day among Romanists, were instituted for celebrating the idolatrous ceremonies which grew out of the heresy of Transubstantiation. This fraternity was famous for its pompous processions on Corpus Christi Day. The North Chancel Aisle of Grantham Church was the Chantry or Choir of Corpus Christi Guild. The Chantry House formerly standing in Walkergate may have been theirs : a window, with the date 1470 on it, was with great propriety preserved when the building was removed, and re-erected in Belton Village. The date corresponds with that of the North Chancel Isle of Grantham Church, and the period was that of the most flourishing condition of that Guild.

The other Chantries were the Chapels of brotherhoods associated for the purpose of maintaining Church Services and Prayers for living or departed members of the society : especially for any who were sick, or travelling abroad, or at sea : for this purpose the Brotherhood maintained a Chaplain and a Chapel. The general neglect of all parochial duties, not specially paid for, by the Clergy of Romish England, led to these institutions. These Chantries, however, finally came to be almost exclusively employed for praying and massing for the souls, either of deceased members or of persons who left legacies, called Post Obits, to the Chantry for the purpose. Such bequests were also often made to the parish Church. The names of all souls to be prayed for were entered in the 'Bede Roll' of the Church or Chantry. This list was called

the Bede Roll, from the word ‘to bid,’ anciently used for ‘to pray;’ a meaning still traceable in the term ‘Bidding Prayer.’

The ancient form used in asking the people’s prayers for the dead, was as follows, the Priest said, “Ye shall pray for father’s soul and mother’s soul, and for all souls whose Mind-day is held in this Church (or Chapel).” The mind or memory day was the day on which any person’s soul was particularly prayed for.

The form used in saying a Mass for a person’s soul is illustrated in the following extract from the will of Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, Lord of Grantham. “Item, I will that Masses be said for my soul and for the soul of Thomas, sometime Duke of Gloucester, and that at each of the said Masses, before the Priest commences, *‘Et ne nos,’* he pronounce with a loud voice turning to the people, “For the souls of Thomas, sometime Duke of Gloucester, and Eleanor his wife, for charity, Paternoster.

Cicely, Duchess of York, who left the reversion of the George Inn, Grantham, to Fotheringay Priory, left the Monks there also an immediate legacy, “that they may not grudge me my burial there.”

The ‘Bedes’ will not be confounded with the string of beads used by persons to enable them to reckon how many times they had repeated any certain prayer.

The Post Obits, payable in Grantham, being given by Edward the Sixth to the Grammar School at Grantham, were thereby applied to instruct the young to avoid the superstitions to the prevalence of which amongst a mistaught people they owed their existence.

The Chantry of St. Mary the Virgin, at Grantham, was founded by the Rev. William Gunthorpe, and endowed by him with two messuages in Grantham, and two acres of land lying in small plots in Grantham, Gonerby, and Harrowby. The Chantry House, where the then Chantry Priests of St. Mary’s lived, stood South West from the Church within the present

churchyard ; this was confirmed in 1855, when, on digging into some new ground in the churchyard in that direction, old and solid foundations were met with close under the surface of the ground. Among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, is a Terrier of the possessions of this Chantry, made in 1549, of which the following is an abridgment.

A Mansion in Grantham called the Chantry House, and 60 acres of meadow and arable land, lying in portions in Grantham field, Gonerby, Manthorpe, Houghton, Walton, Spitalgate, and Barrowby. A close in Gonerby called Collome Holme, of two acres. A cottage in the Market-place in Grantham ; cottage and garden in High-street ; a cottage with a little croft in Walkergate ; a shop in the Market-place ; a cottage and croft at Manthorpe ; a messuage in Castledike and a cottage and garden there ; a meadow in Casthorpe, lying between Swyns-head and land of Augustine Porter's, which was formerly part of the property of Newbo Abbey ; a cottage and garden in Well-lane, ditto in Castledike, ditto in Swinegate ; garden in High-street, ditto in Westgate ; and a plot of land, about an acre, in Spitalgate.

The Chantry of St. Mary had a number of small annual rent charges on various houses, and also rent charges formerly paid to the Chantries of the Holy Trinity, and St. John, then lately dissolved ; and 20 acres of land in Thistleton, in the county of Rutland.

The Chantry of St. Mary had also been suffered to continue five years after the dissolution of the other Chantries in 1544, but in 1549 was dissolved, and granted with all its property to Anthony Chepingdale, the King's Armourer : saving to the King, Edward the Sixth, as Lord of the Manor, the accustomed royalties, and the quit rents formerly payable to the Knight's Hospitallers. The lease is granted by the Lord Protector, the Duke of Somerset, the King being then a Minor.

The Chantry Chapel of St. Mary at Grantham, is described in the Public Records as in the Church of St. Wolfran. It was

the South Chancel Aisle of the Church, which was probably added to the original Church to serve as the Chantry of that Guild, or rebuilt for the purpose.

Richard de Salteby appears in conjunction with Roger de Woolsthorpe, as obtaining, in 1320, from King Edward the Third, a Charter confirming and allowing the Statutes of the Chantry of St. Mary at Grantham, which Statutes had been sanctioned by the Abbot of Vaudey. And in 1362, Richard de Salteby paid a fine of £20 for licence to amortize, or grant in mortmain, certain tenements in Grantham, Gonerby, Harrowby, Dunsthorpe, Hungerton, Spitalgate, Manthorpe, Ugbrook, Newbo, and Barrowby, for spiritual purposes. This munificent patron of religious establishments is commemorated on a slab, under a canopy near the West end of Grantham Church : of the original inscription on which there remains *Ricard de Salteby et Margareta ejus uxor* — 1369 ; there has been a long inscription in a second line of which only the last word *animar* : of souls, remains ; proving that he must have made bequests to Priests or to the Church to pray for the souls of certain persons : confirming the record of his bequests found in the Public Records.

In 1340, Edward the Third granted Charters to the Chantry of St. Thomas the Martyr, and to that of St. Peter the Apostle, at Grantham. In 1403, John Haryngton and others gave to William Steynton and John Hencoop, Chantry Priests in Grantham, certain lands lying in several neighbouring parishes, to them and to their successors for ever.

The Chantry of St. Catharine stood in St. Catharine's field, Westward of the present new Cemetery, the foundations are just below the surface of the soil.

The Eastern part of the Crypt of Grantham Church appears to have been a Chantry Chapel, probably that of St. Thomas a Becket. The Abbey of Newbo or Newboth, in Sedgebrook, was charged with an annual payment of £3. 13s. to the Chantry of St. John the Baptist, at Grantham ; for prayers for the soul of Henry Astey, Knight.

The present North Porch of the Church was also a Chantry Chapel, in all probability ; the place of the Altar and of the Piscina are clearly discernible.

There was, in the memory of inhabitants still living, an Oratory, or Guild Chapel, near the George Hotel, in High-street, Stukeley describes it as a small stone oratory, the walls covered with carvings of subjects from Sacred History, of the crucifixion, and of the Symbols of the Apostles. It was an object of interest to travellers on the North Road, from the beauty of its carvings and vaulted roof.

The Chantries are not included in the valuation of Church property made in 1291, because they were exempt from paying tenths to the Pope. But they are all given in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535. Their average incomes then were £5. except St. Mary's, which was worth £11. per annum.

## Grantham Parish Cross.

---

THE ancient parish Cross of Grantham stood Westward of the Church on the space now called Pump Hill. It was destroyed by the Parliamentary soldiers in 1645. It was then popularly known as the Apple Cross,<sup>1</sup> from the fruit stalls being set near it on Market and Fair days. I apprehend that Grantham Market Place originally was between the Church and Swinegate, and removed to its present site when the Church was extended Westward about 1300. Between the Cross and the Church, but to the right or South-east from the Cross stood the Chantry House of the Chaplains of St. Mary's Chantry. And I apprehend that it was built when the ground ceasing to be used as a Market Place, part of it was granted to that Chantry, and that this was the ground added to the Church-yard, both by Dr. Hurst's gift of a portion in 1729, and also that which was added to it when the houses on it were demolished in 1825.

When the Parliamentary soldiers had left the town, the Corporation, much to their credit, collected the fragments of this Cross and those of Queen Eleanor's Cross, recovered what parts they could from those inhabitants who had carried them away, and laid them in the Church.

There is a tradition in the town that some statues were laid

<sup>1</sup> Corporation Records, 1646.

in the Crypt for concealment : it is therefore probable that the ruins of the Crosses are still under the bones in the Crypt.

The conduct of the Corporation of Grantham in this matter contrasts strongly with that of the Corporation of London, of whom we read in the language of the zealots of that sad time, "The Lord Mayor of the City of London and his blessed brethren, the Aldermen and Common Council agreed among themselves, in May 1643, to have that most abominable Idol of Rome, the Cross in Cheapside, demolished and utterly taken away."<sup>1</sup>

On a house close to the Church door, on the North side of Church lane, was an inscription '*Orate pro animā Gul. Goldsmith, Mercatoris de Grantham.*' Pray for the soul of W. Goldsmith, Merchant.

The Cross in the Market Place was either erected by the Grey Friars of the Grange, or was not Ecclesiastical, but merely marked the place where market tolls were payable. It was pulled down by Mr. John Manners, Lord of the Manor, in 1779, but an action was brought by the Alderman, Mr. Thomas Stanser, against him for the trespass, and Mr. John Manners was compelled by Mandamus to restore it in 1780,<sup>2</sup> on the grounds that Royal Proclamations were wont to be made from it.

1 Vicar's Parliamentary Chronicle.

2 Annual Register.

## Margaret Tudor at Grantham,

MDIII.

---

In 1503, Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter of King Henry the Seventh, though but a girl of 13, having been married by proxy to James the Fourth, King of Scotland, journeyed from Richmond Palace to Scotland, in the month of June in that year, passing through Grantham.

The King her father accompanied her as far as Collyweston Castle, one of the seats of her Grandmother Margaret, Duchess of Richmond, who received and entertained her and her royal father for more than a fortnight. Her mother was Lady of the Manor of Grantham, and had died only a few months before, in fact only three weeks after her daughter Margaret's betrothal. But her mother's early and still recent death left no gloom upon the heart of the thoughtless girl and afterwards unprincipled woman, who, on the 8th July, 1503, set out from Collyweston and took her way Northwards through Grantham. On the border of Lincolnshire, Sir Robert Dymock, the High Sheriff, with a retinue of thirty horsemen, met her, holding a white wand, with which he saluted her, and then rode before. Four miles from Grantham, about Denton, the Alderman of Grantham, with the Burgesses and other inhabitants of the town, met her in fair order, and conveyed her to it. Before she entered the town, "the College of Grantham," that is to say, the

Prebendaries and Vicars of Grantham Church, and the Friars Mendicant of the Grange, received her singing lauds. The Bishop of Moray rode on her right hand, Nix, Bishop of Norwich, on her left; and he, alighting from his horse, presented to her the crosses carried by the Grantham Clergy and Friars, that she might kiss them. She was in a rich litter between two nobly caparisoned horses; four ladies of her bedchamber followed in a finely adorned car. Near her "rode Johannes and his company, the minstrels of music, and the trumpeters with banners displayed," playing on their instruments as she entered the town. "Thus was she brought in fair array to her lodging in Grantham, which was with a gentleman called Mr. Hioll," Hall, who received and lodged Margaret Tudor in the stone Mansion Eastward of the Church. He built the Chapel (at present used as the Vestry) which has a door, now disused, opposite that house; and as the bride Queen of Scotland spent the next day, Sunday, July 9th, at Grantham, we may suppose that she attended service in that Chapel. Did Dr. Nix, Bishop of Norwich, preach? He afterwards bitterly persecuted the Reformers, and could little foresee that Margaret's great grandson, James the First, would succeed to the Throne of England in 1603, exactly one hundred years after that time, because he was not a Romanist. Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester in 1508, who had negotiated Margaret's marriage with the Scotch King, was a native of Ropsley, and founded and endowed the Grammar School of Grantham in 1528.

On Monday, July 10th, 1508, Margaret Tudor left Grantham on her way to Newark, escorted as far as beyond Great Gonerby, by the Alderman and Burgesses, who then took their leave.

John Young, Somerset Herald, who marshalled the array of her progress, has left a full account of the circumstances attending it, which Leland printed in his *Collectanea*. See also Miss Strickland's *Queens of Scotland*, Vol. 1.

## The George Inn.

---

It has already been stated that Edward the Fourth, by grant dated June 1st, 1461, gave a certain Hospitium called Le George,<sup>1</sup> in Grantham, to his mother Cicely, Duchess of York: by her will dated in April, 1495, she bequeathed "To Dame Jane Pesemershe, widow, mine Inn called Le George in Grantham, for her life :" with remainder to the College of Fotheringhay. But it reverted finally to the Crown, for in 1606, it was the Queen's Inn, called Le George. It was a beautiful building, pulled down in 1780.

Some Inns in the town apparently derive their signs from the cognizances or crests of noble families, some member of which once held a Manor in the Soke and had a Hospitium or lodging in the town where his courts were held. I thus account for signs such as the Red Lion, (a lion rampant gules;) the White Hart chained, was borne (a stag passant argent,) as the crest of the Husseys; the Chequers, afterwards the Royal Oak, on the South side of the Market Place, took its sign from the arms of the De Warrennes. On the North side of the Market Place stood the Rose Inn. Grantham was held

1 St. George, originally, I suppose. See Shakspeare, King John, Act 2, Scene 1:

St. George that swinged the Dragon, and e'er since  
Sits on his horseback at mine Hostess' door.

by the York party, this would therefore be the White Rose, there still remains on the wall a Tudor rose carved in stone, apparently cut afresh, being decayed, in 1660; which date, evidently not original, is on the edge of the device.

Old writers speak of Grantham as "a faire town," and no doubt the High-street in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries was beautiful; from Queen Eleanor's Cross and St. Peter's Church to the Angel Inn, stood buildings, at intervals, of the style of which that Inn is a specimen, connected by ranges of low stone houses. But Grantham town took to bricks and lost its good looks.

## Grantham Trade Tokens.

---

THE rise and early development of retail dealing caused the want of a small coin to be so greatly felt, that to supply it, James the First, in 1613, caused copper money to be struck : but the good and lawful money of the realm was not sufficient for the requirements of trades ; and tradesmen had small tokens or counters struck in great quantities, and small payments were thereby greatly facilitated : they were originally either of lead or brass, and only circulated for their nominal value among the customers and neighbours of the tradesmen who issued them, and who were obliged to give true and lawful money in exchange for them when required. They seem to have greatly facilitated tippling, as Evelyn complains that they abounded in taverns.

The earliest Grantham tradesman's token that I have seen is one issued by Gilbert Chantler, 1654.

1. *Obverse*, Gilbert Chantler, 1654, within the inscription two G's under a C.

The letter above on these tokens is the initial of the tradesman's name, (Chantler.) The two letters below are the initials of his christian name and that of his wife.

*Reverse*, On the rim, Grantham—inside, apparently three pellets.

2. *Obverse*, Thomas Wylton, 1659,—within the border, 7 stars.

*Reverse*, In Grantham. T. A. under a W. Thomas and Ann Wylton.

He appears to have been landlord of the Seven Stars Inn.

3. *Obverse*, Edward Paulett, in Grantham.

*Reverse*, At the Bible, 1666 ;—within the rim a Bible with clasps.

This token is about the size of a half-penny. Edward Paulett, as it indicates, was a Bookseller.

4. *Obverse*, Anthony Hoton, 1666. A pair of scales.

*Reverse*, Mercer in Grantham. A. M. under H.

5. *Obverse*, Robert Trevillian. A shield covered with cloves, perhaps indicating that he was a Grocer.

*Reverse*, In Grantham. R. A. under T.

6. *Obverse*, Thomas Doughty. No date ;—within the rim, a rose.

*Reverse*, Of Grantham. T. E. under D.

He must have been landlord of the Rose Inn which stood near the Market Cross on the North side of the Market Place. A rose with date 1660, remains on the house.

7. *Obverse*, Edward Coddington. No date ; within, a shield.

*Reverse*, Of Grantham. E. E. under a C.

To facilitate the relief of the poor, the Corporation, in 1667, issued tokens, by ordering town's half-pence to be set forth.

Dec. 20, 1667, Thomas Short, Alderman.

Whereas, Mr. Alderman this day acquainted the Court that several Corporations have set forth brass half-pence with the town's arms on them, for the benefit of the poor of the said towns, and that it might be very advantageous to the Corporation to do likewise, and desired the Court to take the same into their consideration. Whereupon, the said Court orders that the present Chamberlain do send to London for brass halfpence, with the Chequer on the one side, and Grantham and the year of our Lord on the other side. And to be written about the rim, "To be exchanged by the Overseers of the Poor." And that the same may be obtained as soon as may be.

Many of these tokens are in existence ; they are of copper, not of brass.

## Names of Streets, &c.

---

THERE is no evidence that Grantham was ever walled for purposes of defence.

Our Saxon forefathers called the road by which they 'gat' themselves into or out of a town, 'a Gate'; what closed it they called a Bar.

The Borough had an ancient right and immemorial custom of driving the town swine to spend the day on Manthorpe Moor, and the road by which the pigs left the town was hence called 'the Swinegate.' Vine-street was closed against carriages by posts and a chain, with padlock, so late as 1705. It was the original foot-path to the Church.

The Westgate occurs as the name of that Street in the 13th century. Walkergate was originally the Watergate, so called from the watering place at the Mowbeck at the bottom of that street, where was Walkergate Bridge. The Market Place was called the Market Stede, or Standing. The lower part of Castlegate was the Castle Dike; named from the Castle which stood between the Church and the river, in the direction of the Slate Mill. The High-street is also an old name.

It is surprising that the name Grey Friars and Cistercian Place given to the Grange have both become disused. The Slate Mill was formerly the North Mill; the Well Lane Mill, the Queen's Mill; and the dam there was called the Queen's Dam.

The four ancient and public Wells, already mentioned, were surrounded by posts and rails, and roofed over. The roof of the Well in the Market Place was so large as to allow the Dyers to have their stalls round it, and hang their cloths on the supports. The old Coal Market was opposite the Angel Inn, and from the heap of coal laid there, the space was known as Coal Hill. Peter Church Hill was called Wood Hill because there was a timber yard and sawpit there in the last century.

In 1770 it was proposed to make the River Witham navigable from the Belton Lane Bridge, and to connect it with the Trent. After the ground had been surveyed the scheme was abandoned.

The present Canal to the Trent was opened for traffic in 1799.

Grantham streets were lighted with gas for the first time on October 30, 1833.

The town was connected with Nottingham by a Railway in 1850: and the Great Northern Railway was opened in 1852, affording direct communication between Grantham and London.

## *Hamlets.*

---

HOUGHTON was a hamlet to Grantham in Saxon times, and had a small Chapel dependant on Grantham Church. Harrowby also had its Church, and was a distinct parish.

Many old hamlets were depopulated, and Churches disappeared in the reign of Edward the Third, whose insane delight in war during a long reign, reduced England to a state worse than that to which the wars of Lewis the Fourteenth, and those of Napoleon reduced France. The returns made to the assessment of the ninth lamb and ninth fleece, exacted from the unhappy country to support his armies, furnish us with a striking picture of depopulated villages, uncultivated lands, and an impoverished people. Their cultivators had fallen on the fields of Poitou or Guienne, the owners, who had not also so perished, were the lawless free companions of the Black Prince, living on plunder in France: the Abbots at home entered on the lands of the dead or absent owner, their widows and orphans swelled the poor population of the nearest town. Thus Hamlets and Churches disappeared.

It is probable that the endowment of the Prebendaries of Grantham with the Chapel lands in Houghton, was the first cause of the decay of the Chapel there. Spitalgate still waits for the restoration of that endowment to its Church, which represents the Chapel once at Houghton.

Manthorpe Sands were anciently called the Cony Grees, (grass ?). In 1327, the Abbot of Vaudey had a charter grant from the King of the lordships of Manthorpe, Belton, and

Londonthorpe ; and in 1351, Robert Welles, probably the Abbot, had a grant of free warren, or licence to run his greyhounds, in Manthorpe.

Spitalgate remained till a comparatively recent period a waste heath. The Saltway ran along by the river, and on the road there, in the 13th century, was a house for leprous poor, a *domus leprosorum*, such as were near Lincoln, Newark, Leicester, and most towns. It was not a house of the Knights Hospitallers, nor a chartered Hospital, at any period ; but the unhappy outcasts who tenanted it depended either on small property of their own, or on alms from travellers and charitable persons.

Spitalgate does not occur as the name of a township earlier than the middle of Edward the Third's reign, when it was inserted in the Return called *Nomina Villarum*.

The first traces of the name Spitalgate occur in a Document of 1273, in which we are told that one Richard le Syneker, of the Hospital outside Grantham, came by night to the house of Thomas of Swainton in Grantham, like a thief, and broke the gate of his tanyard ; and the said Thomas raised a hue, and he and his neighbours pursued and arrested Richard le Syneker, at the Hospital, and handed him over to the King's Bailiff, who imprisoned him there for two days and more, beyond the Liberties of Grantham ; and after that, Martin de Chamfleur, the Senescal of Grantham, had him conveyed from that place to Grantham, the King's Bailiff offering no opposition ; and then he confessed to have stolen the two fleeces and one sheep-skin, which were found on him when he was captured ; and for that and other robberies, he was hanged.<sup>1</sup> The gallows of the Lord of the Manor were not merely for ornament. It seems to have been considered that both the Bailiff and Senescal exceeded their duty in going beyond the boundaries, but no proceedings are recorded to have been taken in the matter.

<sup>1</sup> Hundred Roll.

The names of supposed masters of the Hospital near Grantham are given in some works ; but they are the names of Masters of the Spital House near Newark : the mistake was the more easily made as some of them were Incumbents of Stoke near Newark, and there is also a Stoke near Grantham.

Till 1714 there were two Vicars, one of North the other of South Grantham : in that year the two Vicarages were merged into one. Since then, Spitalgate has become an inhabited district ; and, in 1841, was already so populous as to require a Church, which was then commenced and built by subscription. The Incumbent is *geographically* the Vicar of South Grantham.

Private munificence beautified the hamlet of Manthorpe with a Church in 1847. There are some reasons for supposing that there was, in Saxon times, a Church at Tuthorpe or Towthorpe, a hamlet near Londonthorpe Mill, mentioned in Domesday, though no mention is made of a Church there. If this was the case, Manthorpe Church represents Towthorp Church.

The Historian who has to chronicle the desolations of many generations, has also often in these days, occasion to record the building up of the old waste places.

## Grantham Spire.

---

CAMDEN, writing about 1580, says that Grantham 'is set forth with a fair Church, having a spire steeple of mighty height, whereof there go many fabulous tales.' To our loss he has not recorded one of those ancient traditions ; and I fear they are as irrecoverable as King Offa's coffin, which tradition says could long be seen through the clear water, by bathers in the Trent in summer, lying imbedded in the pebbles. We can therefore only apply, to those who neglected to hand down in writing the legends of Grantham Spire, what Matthew Paris says of those who neglected to recover King Offa's coffin. 'O the supine fatuity of early Abbots and Monks, O inexcusable idleness and reprehensible negligence.' Or it may be that the profane hands of Henry the Eighth's spoilers, or Cromwell's ruffians, deprived Grantham of the history of its Steeple of mighty height, 'the shaft whereof' Evelyn notes 'is of stone.'

But it still stands and claims our admiration ; rising in the centre of that green valley which, opening out from its narrow origin at Little Ponton, spreads out on either side of the Witham, between Eastern and Western ridges of low hills, and is partly closed on the North by the wooded slopes of Peasecliff and Syston.

On the lowest ground in the valley, but shooting up so high as to overtop the hills from whence its stones were dug, stands Grantham Spire,

The cynosure of neighbouring eyes,  
so much so, that in the homes which wealth has made around,

the eye still loves that vista best which Grantham Spire closes ; and the ear is most charmed when the breeze conveys to it the music of its bells.

Heylin, when taxed with partiality for the persecuted Vicar of his days, exclaimed, 'I never set eyes on Grantham Steeple.' He is to be pitied, for it is beautiful at all times, lustrous in the sunlight of the Autumnal afternoon ; or when silvered by moonlight, and casting its long shadow over the silent town, it exhibits the excellence of beauty ; or when erect against the storm, and answering the blast with deep-toned reverberations from its hollow cone, it exemplifies the majesty of strength.

Nothing again can be sweeter than the sound of Grantham bells when heard from the High Dyke road, whence the steeple itself cannot be seen, but where the ear is reminded of its vicinity : for their many voiced peal fills the hollow valley till it overflows with sound which sweeps over the hills and across the table land beyond ; or following the wind and the channel of the river, spends itself among the villages Lincolnwards.

The chimes, indeed, have lately resigned their office to more competent, but still expected successors. They were tuneful and cheerful ; and, as Bow bells boast to have charmed Whittington back to his apprenticeship in London ; so Grantham chimes, heard unexpectedly and for the first time, decided a wavering boy to become an apprentice in Grantham, where he has since grown old.

When the Steeple is viewed from near its base, the cone does not appear to be half the whole elevation ; but when viewed from ground level with the parapet of the tower, it is then perceived that the parapet of the tower is about midway from the ground to the vane. From the base to the olliers, or outer gallery round the base of the shaft, is 144 feet, from thence to the cap of the Spire 130 feet : the extreme top of the Spire was not rebuilt, after it had been broken by lightning in 1797, to its former height, so that it is now a few feet lower than it was

before. The upper part was taken down in 1652, and rebuilt about 1664 ; and perhaps not then restored to its primitive elevation.

Thus the original height of the Spire cannot now be ascertained, but it is agreeable with what we know of the daring skill of ancient Church builders to suppose, that he who built Grantham Steeple, placed on a lofty tower a Spire of equal height. These were the proportions of the Steeple of old St. Paul's ; the Tower was 280 feet high, and the Spire rising from it, the same. But the Spire of old St. Paul's was of wood covered with lead, and it was burnt down to the tower-parapet in June, 1561, through the carelessness of the Plumber. Thus the Steeple of St. Paul's was nearly twice the height of Grantham Steeple, but at Grantham the Spire is of stone.

This marvellous structure rests on four massive clustered piers, two of which stand detached, right and left, within the Western door, as Jachin and Boaz stood in the Temple of Solomon. Jachin and Boaz were covered with gold, but these are covered with whitewash ; except the lower part of one, on removing the whitewash from which, a Masonic mark, that of the builder, was discovered on the North East side of the pier. It is a combination of a cross and saltire, and measures very exactly three inches in length, and each of the arms of the crosses, one inch.

Corbels, still remaining, shew that the Tower had originally a roof close under the base of the Spire, and a floor between it and the present roof above the bells.

There are some reasons for believing that the bells at first hung much higher than they now do. They were re-hung in 1640, on which occasion the clock hammer was made weightier that the clock might be heard. If the bells were then lowered the sound of the bell would be considerably less effective, and the clock would require a more powerful hammer stroke. The chimes also were then repaired and 'made to go perfect and true.'

The timber used in these repairs, in 1640, was oak from Belvoir woods: and the Master Carpenter was directed ‘to make a handsome pair of oak stairs for going up into the Belfry.’

It must be enquired how these stairs could be needed, as the Newel stone stair gives admission to the interior of the tower by three doorways. But, however incredible the story may appear, it is a certain fact that a wooden stage for the ringers stood under the groined roof of the tower, hideously concealing that vault and the unrivalled Western window: the bell ropes being brought down through the vaulting. And it was to reach this ringing stage that the handsome pair of wooden stairs was erected inside the Western door. These stairs being removed, perhaps destroyed and burnt by the Parliamentary soldiers in 1645, access to the ringing stage was obtained from the Newel stair by cutting a doorway through a main support of the Spire: this doorway has since been *bricked* up. In 1752, the ringing stage was removed; four bells recast, and their frames repaired: on two of these bells the old inscriptions were reproduced,

*Cælorum Christe, placeat tibi, Rex, sonus iste.*

Towards these improvements, £516 was raised by subscription.

In July, 1652, the Spire was struck and severely damaged by lightning: a scaffolding was erected and the upper part taken down; but the troublous times caused its restoration to be deferred, so that it remained unrepaired, the rain entering and rotting the bell frames; till after the Restoration; that is to say, for more than ten years, and was at last rebuilt in 1664.

In 1797, the vane and summit of the Spire were blown off in a high wind, the vane fell to the North East of the Church, splitting a tomb stone. The top of the Spire was not rebuilt, but a mill stone was clapped on to secure it and to receive the shaft of the present vane, and a lightning conductor was fitted to it.

The bells and chimes appear formerly to have required frequent repairs: an order found in the Corporation Records of

1646 accounts for such a state of things; that order directs that, whereas an innumerable concourse of old and young are wont to enter the Church on Shrove Tuesday, ascend to the roofs and olliers, gangle the bells and break the chime wires, the belfry door is to be kept locked, and such misdemeanors prevented in future.

There are ten bells, besides a small bell, or ting tang, given by Barbara Hurst, daughter of the benevolent Dr. Hurst. This bell is rung at the commencement of every Service in the Church, after the greater bells.

A bell is rung at 5 o'clock in the morning from Lady-day to Michaelmas; and the curfew every evening at 8 o'clock, except on vigils or eves of Holy Days, *because a curfew is never rung on a vigil*; such is the reason given on the authority of ancient and immemorial custom at Grantham; 'other reason know I none,' but it is to be wished that some, conversant with such customs, would explain it. After the curfew, the day of the month is struck on a heavier bell.

Sir Christopher Wren adapted a simple but efficient contrivance to the vane shaft of Salisbury Spire, which, by distributing the leverage pressure of the vane and shaft over a wide surface, and at a lower part of the Spire, has prevented the recurrence of accidents from high winds to the delicate upper portion of it. When Grantham Spire shall be restored to its delicate proportions, it is to be hoped that what has served the mother Church so well, will be applied to Grantham.

## Weekly Lecture in Grantham Church.

---

EARLY in the seventeenth century, the Puritan faction thrust Lecturers into many towns to disseminate those opinions which in process of time produced the great Rebellion ; and from the first, caused annoyance to the parochial Clergy similar to that which the preaching Friars had caused to the Clergy in Romish times. The Lecturers are first heard of in Grantham about 1620, and they originated and fostered the divisions in the parish which will form the subject of the next chapter.

Apparently to remedy the growing evil, the Corporation of Grantham established a weekly Tuesday Lecture in the Church, inviting the ablest Divines in the Diocese to preach it by turns. The Incumbents of neighbouring parishes gave their assistance, especially Dr. Hurst and Dr. Sanderson. The preachers are spoken of in the Corporation Records as 'the worthy Society of Tuesday Lecturers, whose pains amongst us have so much tended to the glory of God and furtherance of true religion, piety, and conformity amongst us.'

The Alderman and his brethren were accustomed to proceed in state to the Lecture, and a dinner with 'a pint of sack for the Lecturer,' was provided. Though this Lecture was interrupted for four years by the excesses of the Rebellion, the Corporation revived it with laudable zeal in 1646.

It continued to be upheld till 1651, when the Viscountess Camden having bequeathed £3,100 0s. 0d. to be invested in the purchase of an Impropriation formerly belonging to some Abbey or other religious house, the yearly proceeds of the same to be applied to the endowment of two Lectureships, whereof one was to be established in the diocese of Lincoln;

the Corporation petitioned the Mercers' Company, Trustees under Lady Camden's will, to establish one of the Lectures at Grantham; and used such earnestness, that they obtained it for the town.

The Mercers' Company, influenced by the active Puritan party, appointed the Rev. John Angel, their first Lecturer in 1651. Concerning this Mr. Angel, Archbishop Laud gave the following account to the King in his annual Report of the State of the Province of Canterbury, in 1634.

'In Leicester, the Dean of the Arches suspended one Mr. Angel who has continued a Lecturer in that great town for these divers years, without any licence at all to preach, yet took liberty enough. I doubt his violence has cracked his brain, and do therefore use him the more tenderly, because I see the hand of God hath overtaken him.'

Mr. Angel held the Grantham Lectureship till 1656, when he died; and the Mercers' Company gave the appointment to one of the Vicars, Mr. Dix, instead of strengthening the hands of the parochial Clergy by associating a prudent brother with them.'

The following Note extracted from the Parish Register is inserted here, as illustrating a custom of the times.

Memorandum. That Ann, wife of Ralph Nidd, had a licence granted and given her the 9th day of March, 1618, to eat flesh<sup>1</sup> according to the statute made in the fifth year of the reign of Elizabeth, late Queen of famous memory, by Thomas Wicliffe, of Grantham, Gent. and Alderman of the said town, and Thomas Deane, Clerk; which Ann Nidd, continuing and abiding in the said sickness and weak estate, desireth her licence to be renewed and registered according to law, which is here done, this present Tuesday, March 16th, 1618.

Ita Testor, Thomas Deane, Vic. Austr.

Richard Coney, } Churchwardens.  
William Wright,

<sup>1</sup> That is during the Lent Fast.

## The Puritans in Grantham.

---

THOUGH Henry the Eighth, at the instance of Archbishop Cranmer, appointed Grantham to be a Bishopric, with other Collegiate Churches ; the scheme, being one that would not put anything into the King's purse, was never carried out ; on the contrary, Henry gave up to destruction the Church of St. Peter, at Grantham, instead of appropriating it to the Vicar of South Grantham.

The question between the Pope and Henry the Eighth was not one of doctrine ; both were always indifferent to the truth ; but the contest between them was, who should have the power of plundering the Clergy. Men in England who loved the truth, took the opportunity of this struggle between the two dreaded powers, Rome and the Throne, and sowed those seeds from which true Doctrine sprung up, and in time overspread the land. Grantham was left and remained in the days of Charles the First, a poor Vicarage. There were nominally two Vicars, but, at the period just named, only one seems to have been resident and efficient in the town. During the remarkable passage in the History of Grantham which is now to be narrated, the Bishop and all parties speak of *the Vicar* of Grantham, without allusion to another ; except it be in Prynne's outrageous Pamphlet, 'Quench Coal,' where the Vicar he assails is called by him, 'Monsieur Half Vicar.'

Though the Chancellor of the diocese came his rounds, there had been no Episcopal Visitation of the diocese for more than a hundred years, (probably not from before the time when Cardinal Wolsey had been Bishop) when, in 1627, the Rev. Peter Tytler was sole resident, or at least sole officiating Vicar of Grantham. By the testimony of his calumniators, (not Grantham people), he did much to revive the decencies of divine worship, to the satisfaction of the Bishop; and improved the Psalmody, in which he was a proficient. And finding that the Communion Table was standing in the middle of the Chancel, not railed in, but subjected to all kinds of desecration, apprentice boys sitting and lounging on it or sleeping under it during sermon time, he moved it, in the Spring of 1627, to its proper place, where it now stands, under the Chancel East window; and railed it in. This met with the approbation of the then Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. John Williams, to whom he communicated what he had done. Bishop Williams was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and his secular duties interfered with his spiritual oversight of his diocese. Yet the following distich of those days is noways true :

‘No Churchman can be innocent and high,  
Tis height makes Grantham Steeple look awry.’

Archbishop Laud revived the energies of the Bishops generally, by visiting their dioceses as Primate, and making an annual summary report of their condition to the King, at the King's request. Williams and Laud were of different tempers, Williams was wavering, Laud inflexible. They were long on indifferent terms, and finally, in 1637, Williams was suspended for conniving at some libels against Laud.

Mr. Tytler, the Vicar of Grantham, objected to the unauthorized Lecturers, paid by the parish, in Grantham, and forbade them his pulpit. The towns of England at that time were supplied with these preachers by the Puritan party, and their Jesuitical teaching was the main instrument in bringing

about the English reign of terror in which Stafford, Laud, and King Charles himself, perished on the scaffold.

Mr. Thomas Wheatley was Alderman of Grantham in 1627, when the Vicar so properly objected to the Puritan Lecturers ; and his conduct is an exception to that of other Aldermen of Grantham, who are shewn by existing documents to have been friends of Civil and Ecclesiastical Order. He was so wrought on by the Lecturers, that, on going to Church on one Sunday, he forgot himself so far as to order the Sergeants at Mace to bring back the Communion table from the East end of the Chancel, and replace it in the centre of the Chancel. Hereupon, to use the words of the Grantham people when sorry for the affair, ‘they fought in the Church.’ ‘We are all quiet and peaceable men at Grantham,’ they said, ‘save that we fought once in the Church about moving the Altar.’ Whilst the Puritans were so wicked as to tell them, ‘they were very honest fellows, and deserved a dozen of Grantham ale for doing such a service.’

It is said that the Vicar’s party got the better in the struggle, and we are told that, in consequence, the Alderman saddled, and rode to Buckden to Bishop Williams, followed by a cavalcade of his supporters, arriving to the amazement of the Bishop. Mr. Tytler, the Vicar, also followed to justify himself.

Mr. Tytler had reason to think the Bishop would support him, for when the Royal injunctions to place the Communion Table at the East end of the Chancel came out, he had caused the Holy Table in Lincoln Cathedral to be so placed, and had beautified it with plate above any other in England.

But he received the Vicar of Grantham with little civility, and promised to write his opinion. And though it is hardly credible, yet it is certain, that he sent to the Lecturers in the town the letter addressed to the Vicar, in which letter he gave his opinion on the subject ; leaving it to them to communicate to the Vicar.

In that letter, Bishop Williams begins by saying, ‘When I

spake with you last, I told you that the standing of the Communion Table was unto me a thing so indifferent, that unless offence was taken by the town against it, I should never move it or remove it.' And concludes with these words, 'Which side soever, you or your parish, shall yield to the other in this needless controversy, shall remain, in my poor judgment, the more discreet, grave, and learned of the two.' The 'victrix causa' pleased the Bishop.

But Bishop Williams in his letter committed the great mistake of diverging from the question mooted at Grantham, as to the more fitting and canonical place for the Holy Table, declining to decide it, and launching into questions of doctrine. And for this reason, I have not printed Bishop Williams' long letter. We learn incidentally from it, that the Chancel screen was then still standing in Grantham Church.

The Rev. Peter Tytler, Vicar of Grantham, was buried on the last day of the year 1633, but he had succeeded in convincing the town that the Holy Table stood most fitly against the East wall of the Chancel; for the Alderman certified the Parliament in 1640, that Mr. Dix, who succeeded Mr. Tytler, found it so placed when he was inducted.

The year after Mr. Tytler died, Bishop Williams performed a general Visitation of his diocese, and reported to Archbishop Laud, that he found so much good done by it, that he regretted he had neglected that duty till then, 'so many years as he had been Bishop.'

The Alderman of Grantham also certified Parliament, that on the occasion of his Visitation, the Bishop did not object to the position of the Holy Table, but caused the Gospel and Epistle to be read from it as it stood, under the Chancel East Window.

Meantime the Alderman and his brethren had obtained the services of Orthodox learned Clergymen as Lecturers on Tuesdays; among these were Dr. Hurst, Rector of Barrowby, and Dr. Robert Saunderson, Rector of Boothby Pagnell, whose

labours among the people of Grantham, as the Corporation record it in their books, ‘tended much to the glory of God, the furtherance of true Religion, and Conformity.’

But the letter of Bishop Williams to the Vicar of Grantham had been widely circulated by the Puritan party, and it was answered in 1636 by Dr. Heylyn, in the notable tract entitled “A Coal from the Altar;” which Bishop Williams relished so little, that afterwards, when trouble was preparing for any one, he used to say, ‘there is a coal blowing up against him.’ The notorious and hapless W. Prynne replied to this tract by another called “Quench Coal.” And Henry Burton also attacked it and its author in a pamphlet entitled “The Holy Table, name, and thing.” The facetiousness of which tract consists in its wilfully mistaking the author of the ‘Coal from the Altar,’ and attributing it either to a Dr. Coal, a Romish Priest, who preached a taunting sermon to Cranmer at the stake, or to some Newcastle coal man who took an interest in Grantham because he often travelled Grantham road. The temper and doctrine of the tract are worse than the wit.

On this occasion, Bishop Williams acted in a very indiscreet manner, for he sanctioned the printing of the tract and gave it his highest approval, Nov. 30, 1636, not as Bishop of Lincoln, but as Dean of Westminster. Collier says he wrote it himself, but this is not the fact, though he must have furnished the author with some particulars. Dr. Heylyn, by the King’s command, answered this pamphlet by another entitled “Antidotum Lincolniense;” and other tracts followed.

But while these disputes on religion, (the greatest of all evils to religion,) were being waged, the Plague was devastating Grantham. The fabric of the Church was in great decay. The Vicar had been obliged to pawn his books for bread, though the Corporation assisted him in his necessity: and the fury of a Civil War, waged against the Altar and the Throne, was about to be exercised against Grantham Church and Town. And the town soon felt how cruel were the tender

mercies of those who had stirred up some well meaning but deluded persons in it to embitter the life of a Minister bent on restoring the Services of the Church to primitive and godly decency.

In 1640, Dr. Farmery, Chancellor of the diocese, presented an organ to Grantham Church : this also was laid hold of by the fanatics, as matter fit to be presented to the Parliament ; and though the Corporation drew up a most temperate and sensible petition to the House, shewing that the organ tended to the solemnity and uniformity of Psalmody ; that the Holy Table was so placed as to escape the profanation it was formerly subjected to ; and that the Vicar, like his predecessors, objected to no authorized Lecturer preaching in his pulpit, (for all these grievances were revived,) yet the then Members for the Borough, Henry Pelham, Esq., and Thomas Hussey, Esq., returned it unpresented, describing it as unfit to be laid before Parliament ; and the Alderman and Burgesses called it in. But it is as temperate as it is sensible, and exists in the Corporation Records to speak for itself.

The Parliamentary soldiers were quartered in the town at intervals from 1642 to 1646 ; they destroyed the wood-work inside the Church, preferring it to coals for fuel, it would seem, as they left much of the coal, provided by the town for them, unconsumed ; and afterwards it was given to the poor.

However, in 1645, the Civil War ceased, Cromwell was supreme, and after the excesses of the Puritan Parliament, even his Government was a blessing. In that year it was ordered in Parliament, that the yearly rent of £63, reserved out of the Rectory of Grantham to Dr. Fell and Mr. Still, Prebendaries of Salisbury, be equally divided between the two Vicars of Grantham for the time being. The profits arising to both Vicars from the town being but £40 a year. And the Sequestrators were ordered to pay the same accordingly. This order is signed Harbottle Grimston.

But though two Vicars are mentioned in this document, con-

temporary records shew that but one was resident, and he appointed and removed by the Corporation.

In 1646, the Alderman wrote to Mr. Bury, then at Lincoln, to advise how they could provide an able Minister, and means to sustain him: shortly after, the Alderman and his Court elected Mr. Redman to be Vicar of the town, and petitioned Parliament to establish him. And in 1653, a moot was held in the Church about electing Mr. Seabrook in the place of Mr. Redman, who had left the town: he was elected, and it was agreed that he should have the Augmentation.

The Restoration of King Charles the Second, and the elevation of Dr. Sanderson, the comforter of the town during the Plagues of sickness and impiety that had desolated it, put an end to the anomalous state of Church matters in Grantham. But Bishop Sanderson died in 1662: taken away so as not to witness the disappointment of his precious hopes by a wicked King.

## *Grantham during the Great Rebellion.*

---

KING Charles the First was at Grantham in 1633, on his Royal progress to receive the Crown of Scotland in Holy Rood Palace. Laud, then Bishop of London, and a host of noblemen, were with the King. On May 17th, the Alderman, Mr. Henry Ferman, did homage to the King and presented to His Majesty a silver cup of the value of £29 3s. 7d. The fees claimed by the various officers of the Court amounted to upwards of £40. But on application by the Alderman to the Lord Chamberlain they were remitted.

The writs for ship money were issued to the Inland Counties in 1635, and Grantham with the Soke, was taxed £200, part of £8000, the cost of a ship of 800 tons, exacted from the whole County of Lincoln. The tax was very unpopular, especially in Boroughs, which argued that their Charters protected them from such an impost. The Alderman made many journeys to Lincoln on the subject; and to London, in 1636, respecting the town's arrears, but it was levied. A ship of war named 'The Grantham' appears on the navy list in the following years, but I do not know that it was so named in compliment to the town.

In 1636 the King was at Belvoir with the Queen, and the Corporation compensated those tradesmen of the town who had their goods taken for their Majesties' use, 'at the King's price;' or who had lent carts and horses for his service.

In 1637 the Plague raged in Grantham, especially during the months of April and May ; the registers are imperfect, but they record the names of 68 persons buried in the Church-yard in the last three weeks of May. This was the third visitation of the town by plague in the space of 21 years. It had raged in the town in 1616, and again about 1627.

On March 18th, 1639, the Alderman received a writ directed to him by the Queen, requiring the Borough to elect two Burgesses to sit in the approaching Parliament. But the Corporation decided not to make any return to the writ, because it did not come through the Sheriff of the County. However, on March 21st, the Alderman received a similar writ through the High Sheriff, Sir John Brownlow: and Sir Edward Bashe and Henry Pelham were elected members for the Borough to the Parliament summoned for April 12. That Parliament was soon dissolved, and on Oct. 20 of the same year Mr. Pelham and Thomas Hussey were chosen, the Parliament being summoned for Nov. 3. Mr. Hussey dying, Sir William Armine, of Osgodby, Bart., was chosen in his room, March 21, 1641. The Parliament that met, Nov. 3, 1640, was the Parliament that levied war against the King.

In the summer of 1640 the Scots army invaded England, and the King, Charles the First, passed post haste through Grantham Northwards, on August 18th ; and again in August, 1641.

After the Bill for raising the Militia had been passed by the Parliament, Feb. 14th, 1642 ; the first note of preparation for the coming Civil War was sounded in Grantham, by an order received by the High Constable of the Wapentakes to attend at Lincoln to give in to the Parliamentary Commissioners sent down into the County, and then at Lincoln, a report of the number and condition of the stands of arms, whether belonging to the Corporation, or in the Wapentakes. Among these Commissioners was Sir William Armine, member for Grantham, and Captain Edward Ayscough, of Grantham.<sup>1</sup> And the Alderman

<sup>1</sup> Circular Letter from Committee dated June 1st, 1642, at Lincoln. In British Museum.

ordered the town arms to be repaired, to be in readiness when the viewer of arms should visit the town.

The King's Commissioners of array was also active in the neighbourhood ; great endeavours were made to ensure the loyalty of the various towns ; and men of all ranks either made up their minds to embrace one of the two causes about to be decided by arms; or else wavered, and sided with each by turns.

Grantham was loyally inclined, and on Colonel Cavendish approaching it, January 8th, 1643, with a detachment of the Earl of Newcastle's army, 'the people of the town came out to meet them with joy and music ; willingly admitted two troops of horse, for the securing of that pass ; and took great care to see them billeted and disposed of to their best content.'<sup>1</sup>

For their accommodation, the large barn on the Prebendal land at the South East of the churchyard was paved and fitted up. And by a warrant issued at Newark and signed by the Commissioners of array, Sir Peregrine Bertie, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, Sir William Thorold, Sir Charles Hussey, (of Donington), Sir Jervase Nevile, Sir Robert Tredway, and James Haryngton, Esq., (of Grantham), the town was assessed in the sum of £125 for his Majesty's service. The warrant is dated Newark, January 24th, 1643. Only part of the money could be levied.

In that month, also, Sir Peregrine Bertie seized and garrisoned Belvoir for the King.

Captain Welby, 'a most pernicious and desperate malignant,' (as the fanatical and rabid Vicars<sup>2</sup> call him,) but in truth a brave and loyal subject, persuaded Croyland to declare for the King ; entrenched and otherwise fortified the town ; and also took Spalding for the King, and in it a Captain John Haryngton ; who in a subsequent encounter fired three times at his own father, not knowing him, and by a great mercy never once wounded him—such is Civil War.

1 Mercurius Aulicus (a loyal Newspaper) of January 16, 1643.

2 Author of the Parliamentary Chronicle.

About the middle of January, 1648, soon after Grantham had received a Royal Garrison, a detachment of the rebels under a Sergeant Major Drake, attempted to carry the town, but not liking the appearance of the Royal troops, drew off without doing anything. For this failure, the Sergeant Major was imprisoned at Lincoln, and tried by court martial in the second week in March, but 'was found to be an honest gentleman, and wise in not going against a place fortified with as many soldiers in it as he himself had; besides they were within Grantham and he outside; the whole town being at that time Malignants, (i.e. Royalists); he was therefore cleared and acquitted, and came off with much honour.'<sup>1</sup> But not I think with so much honour as the inhabitants deserved on the occasion.

Grantham was considered a chief pass on the North road, and was eagerly contested for by each party, though not easily tenable; and before Sergeant Major Drake had been tried for failing against it, Lord Grey, son of the Earl of Stamford, with some rebel troops and a Sergeant Major Griffiths, took the place;<sup>2</sup> and with a detachment from it made a foray into Rutlandshire, and plundered Brook House, the seat of Viscount Camden; setting fire also to Luftenham and other villages, and making several prisoners. The Civil War then became cruel.

It having been ordered in Parliament, July 30th, 1642, that plate should be seized and sent to the Mint to be coined to the value of £100,000, to pay the rebel army; the Parliamentary Commissioners at Lincoln took the opportunity of Grantham being in their hands, and despatched Captain Edward Ayscough to it to seize the town plate; which he did: but owing no doubt to the fact that one of the Committee, Sir William Armine, was Member for the town, and Captain Edward Ayscough either a native of it or closely connected with the

1 Perfect Diurnal. Rebel Newspaper.

2 Mercurius Aulicus.

Ayscoughs of Grantham; we find that the town plate was recovered from Captain Ayscough by Mr. Alexander More, a principal ancient Comburgess, safely secreted by him, and finally, in July, 1643, restored to the Alderman and Corporation.<sup>1</sup>

The plate consisted of two silver cans, two silver tuns, two beer bowls, one wine bowl, one gilt cup, one beaker, silver salt and cover, the horse race cup, and thirteen silver spoons.

The neighbourhood in the meantime suffered from the violence of lawless bands, led even by the Gentry possessed with the moral insanity of the times: the rebel bands, under the Earl of Lincoln and Lord Willoughby of Parkam, rifled the houses of Sir Robert Tyrwhit, Sir Robert Thorold, Sir William Pelham, and Mr. Dymoke, because they had been in attendance on His Majesty. They treated Mr. Dymoke's house, which was near Metheringham, and his servants, with great barbarity, destroying all his valuable furniture, and taking every thing even to 'the scullion's frock:' being particularly incensed against Mr. Dymoke, as he was 'the King's Heraldic Champion.'<sup>2</sup>

The King, Feb. 25th, had ordered that considering the distracted state of the country, the intended next Spring Assizes for Oyer and Terminer and goal delivery, should not be held at the usual time, but deferred 'till God should give peace to the land.'

But Col. Cavendish, with fifteen companies of foot and horse, having started from Newark on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 23, fell suddenly on Grantham, and its rebel Garrison, before break of day on Thursday, March 24, and took the town, and 400 stand of arms, making prisoners 5 Captains and about 240 soldiers.<sup>3</sup> And His Majesty's Judges of Assize being at Newark, determined to proceed to Grantham there to

1 Corporation Records.

2 Mercurius Aulicus.

3 Letter from Lincoln in old Newspaper. Brit. Mus.

hold a Sessions, giving notice that they intended so doing, ‘being aware of the late rebellious acts committed against His Majesty’s subjects in the county ;’ and referring to the plunder of Gentlemen’s houses just noticed. They appointed Tuesday, April 11, 1643, as the day on which they intended to hold the Sessions ‘for the framing of an indictment to be presented to the Grand Jury of the county against the disturbers of the peace.’

The Earl of Lincoln and Lord Willoughby of Parkam, hearing of what was levelled against them, proposed to prevent it by seizing Grantham and the Judges in it; and accordingly drew towards the town, from Sleaford, with 800 horse and 200 dragoons. Young Hotham, Sir John Hotham’s son, commanded these 200 Grey Coats, as they were called.

Col. Cavendish, however, received notice of their approach ; and posting a detachment to watch the Queen’s Dam, by which the Witham was then crossed at the present Well Lane Mill, he passed the river with his main body, 9 troops of horse and 500 foot, by the bridge on the Belton lane, met the rebel forces and drove them back as far as Ancaster Heath, taking about 300 prisoners, 140 muskets, and 60 pairs of pistols.

There were several prisoners, then in Grantham, tried at the Assize, among them Sir Anthony Irby and William Ellis, Esq., Members for Boston, and others taken in arms against the King.

The only trace of war at Grantham in the Parish Register, is the solitary entry ‘Selbie, a soldier, buried April 3rd, 1643.’

But a great soldier was now about to appear on the scene, and decide which party should triumph around Grantham. In March, 1642, the Royalist newspaper had said contemptuously enough, ‘One Cromwell, calling himself a Colonel, has made the heads of houses at Cambridge take down their organs.’ This is probably the first public notice of him and his doings in the War ; but the Parliamentary paper, published in May 1643, stated that letters out of Lincolnshire brought true in-

telligence to London that 'the brave and valiant soldier, Col. Cromwell,' had given the Newark Cavaliers a great overthrow near Grantham. This is the event to which De Foe thus alludes, 'the first action in which we heard of his exploits, and in which he emblazoned his character, was at Grantham, where with only his own regiment he defeated 24 troops of horse and dragoons of the King's forces.'<sup>1</sup>

He had raised and trained a regiment in Huntingdonshire, his native county, and after harrying that neighbourhood, marched across into Lincolnshire in the beginning of May, 1643, to join the Earl of Manchester. He took Croyland, which Captain Welby had so long and gallantly held, and marched through Grantham; near which place he defeated the King's troops. The following is Cromwell's letter written late on the evening of the 22nd of May, after the battle, from Belton I believe, but the printed copy of Cromwell's despatch to William Lenthall, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons, which is in the British Museum, has no date or name of place.

'Colonel Cromwell to the Hon. W. Lenthall.

Sir,

God hath this evening given us a glorious victory over our enemies; they were, as was informed unto me, 21 colours of horse troops, and 3 or 4 of dragoons. It was late in the evening when we drew out our forces, consisting of about 12 troops, whereof some of them so poor and broken, that you shall seldom see worse. With this handful, it pleased God to cast the scale of victory on our side. For after we had stood a little above musket shot the one body from the other; and the dragooners having fired on both sides for the space of half an hour or more; they not advancing towards us, we advanced to charge them, and advancing our whole body after many shot on both sides, (but their bullets still flew over our heads and did us no harm,) we came on with our troops a pretty round

<sup>1</sup> Memoirs of a Cavalier.

trot, they standing firm to receive us ; but after almost half an hour in that posture, and some great shot spent on both sides, our men most valiantly and resolutely marched up and fiercely charged on them. Whereupon their hearts instantly failed them : a spirit of trembling came upon them, and they were immediately routed and ran all away ; and we had the execution of them, two or three miles at least : and I verily believe that some of our soldiers killed two or three men apiece in the pursuit.

The true number of men slain we are not certain of, but by credible report and estimate of our soldiers, and by what I myself saw, there were very little less than a hundred slain and mortally wounded, and we lost but two men at the most on our side. We took 45 prisoners, besides divers of their horses and arms, and rescued many prisoners whom they had lately taken of ours, and we took 4 or 5 of their colours, and so marched away to Lincoln.'

OLIVER CROMWELL.

Cromwell mentions no names either of Commanders or of villages ; but it would appear that the encounter took place near to, perhaps just beyond, the village of Belton. From his letter we learn that it took place on the Lincoln road ; and an entry in Belton Church Register, 'May 1643, buried, three Soldiers slain in Belton fight,' seems to determine the question. In making Belton Rectory garden, the workmen discovered several human skeletons in postures such as those in which the poor soldier dies on the field of battle ; and these were probably some of those poor fellows of whom Cromwell says so callously, 'some of our soldiers killed two or three apiece ;' for it must be considered that these were Englishmen falling on their own fields by the hands of their fellow countrymen.

After this, Grantham remained in the hands of the rebels. Cromwell joined the Earl of Manchester's army, and he and Sir Thomas Fairfax having defeated the King's troops at Winceby, near Horncastle, Oct. 11, 1643 ; Sir Thomas Fairfax

advanced to Grantham, and imposed the sum of £300 on the town for the support of the rebel cause.

The King's party had taxed the unhappy town £125, though they met them on their entry 'with joy and music.' Fairfax demanded twice as much, (he was not met with music,) and finding the money not immediately forthcoming, he seized Mr. Edward Christian, the Alderman, a Royalist, and seven Comburgesses similarly inclined, Matthews, Calcraft, Chauntler, Ferman, Bristow, J. Mills and T. Mills, on Nov. 3, 1643. Allowing, however, the Alderman to hold a Court, at which under the terror of the moment, fair words were given to the General, and the money was voted immediately. But the town refused to pay; and an assembly was held three days after, Nov. 6th, at which the order to pay was rescinded: the townspeople declaring that 'they would not condescend to pay the money;' to ransom their Alderman; remembering, no doubt, the irony which Horace puts into the mouth of Regulus,

*Auro repensus scilicet acrior  
redibit.*

Whereupon Sir Thomas Fairfax ordered the Alderman of Grantham, and his brethren, to be marched off prisoners to Nottingham Castle; and they making a last appeal to their townfellows to grant them at least some money wherewith to solace them in their captivity, the assembly agreed that £5 should be granted to Mr. Alderman only: and 'would grant no more.'<sup>1</sup>

During the captivity of the Alderman, the Senior Comburgess held assemblies for transacting the town business.<sup>2</sup>

Grantham was then garrisoned more numerously than before. Colonel Rossiter being Commandant. The Soldiers were quartered on the inhabitants: there were '60 in Mr. Cave's house;' and the town was compelled to allow every horse soldier 8d. a meal, 4d. a night, and hay; and every foot soldier 6d. a meal.

<sup>1</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>2</sup> For the difference between Courts and Assemblies, see the Chapter on 'The Charter and Corporation.'

Newark and Belvoir Castle were watched by outposts from Grantham: and the town, during the year 1644, appears to have enjoyed comparative quiet, and at times to have been left without a Garrison; the scene of the war being transferred to the West of England. But the town was harassed by the exactions of both parties. In February, the King's Commissioners demanded the remainder of the assessment of £125, still due; and two Comburgesses were desired to repair to the Commissioners then at Belvoir, to entreat them 'to ease the Borough of the tax'; but they returned with a letter from the Governor requesting the Alderman to levy and remit as much of the assessment as he could: and in April, 1644, the town had to pay £26 1s. 9d., the expenses of detachments and soldiers passing by or near the town: these belonged to the rebel army.

I have not been able to ascertain how or why the Alderman and his fellow prisoners obtained their release; but it appears that in Sep. 1644, the Alderman and his brethren were released and returned to Grantham, where they were heartily welcomed; and at an assembly held on the occasion, it was ordered 'very instantly and equally,' that as they were imprisoned in behalf of the town, an assessment should be levied to reimburse them their expenses during their confinement at Nottingham.

The released Alderman and Burgesses devoted themselves to the King's cause, stung we may suppose by their treatment at the hands of Sir Thos. Fairfax. One of them, Gilbert Chaundler, joined the Garrison of Belvoir, where he was dited at the governor's table; and made himself useful in foraging; on one of which expeditions he fell in with John Kirke and other Grantham butchers with seven horses laden with meat for the Parliamentary Garrison of Sleaford: these he seized and carried off to Belvoir. John Kirke entreated him as a fellow-townsman to let them off, but Gilbert Chaundler answered him that 'they were rightly served, and deserved to lose their meat for supplying the quarters of Rebels,' which rebuke John Kirke remembered against him afterwards.

After the battle of Naseby, June 14, 1644, so disastrous to the Royal cause, the King threw himself into Newark ; and Rossiter was reinforced at Grantham. The rebel army concentrated round Newark :<sup>1</sup> the struggle was drawing to its close. Belvoir Castle was held with a strong garrison by Sir Gervase Lucas. A letter from Grantham, dated October 5th, 1645, states that the enemy came out of Newark to plunder, ‘and though we stop many passes, they break sometimes into Lindsey coasts ;’ and another letter, dated Grantham, Oct. 8, 1643, informs the Speaker of the House of Commons, William Lenthal, Esq., that ‘the King having marched towards Chester, Colonel Rossiter is gone in pursuit of him with a gallant party of horse from Grantham :’ but they returned, having done nothing.

Rossiter’s detachments, however, were very successful in intercepting letters from Belvoir, and among them the following,

‘To the Constable of Winnbridge Wapentake. These. Haste, post haste, haste.’

Belvoir Castle, Oct. 7, 1645.

These are to require you, by His Majesty’s especial command, to send to my quarters at Belvoir, by to-morrow morning at 10 of the clock at the furthest, sufficient provision for 100 horses and men for one week, over and above your usual custom for the Garrison, for the service of the Right Honble. the Lord Gerhard’s forces ; which is the portion allotted to you to bring in. Of which you are not to fail, as you will answer the neglect thereof, and incur His Majesty’s displeasure ; besides exposing yourself to the mercy of the hungry soldiers who will admit no excuse herein.

GERVASE LUCAS.

Shortly after, about the 1st of November, he also intercepted a letter from Newark to the Governor of Belvoir, giving him notice that the King would be with him presently. But, notwithstanding all the vigilance of the rebel outposts, the King

<sup>1</sup> Col. Rossiter lies at Grantham : Colonel Sidcot is at Nottingham : the King is at Newark. Perfect Diurnal, Oct. 8, 1645.

escaped ; for, leaving Newark at Eleven o'clock at night, Nov. 3, he reached Belvoir at 3 a. m., Nov. 4, and marching between the rebel posts by Burley on the Hill, reached Northampton.

At Grantham with the rebel troops were the Earl of Rutland, Captain W. Pierrepont, Captain Edward Ayscough, and Captain Hatcher. Rossiter had already summoned Belvoir Castle, and the Governor, Sir Gervase Lucas, answered him, 'that the King had not put him there to surrender to rebels.' He and Poyntz, however, took the outbuildings of the Castle, Nov. 21st; and also cut off from the Garrison their source of water supply: and Belvoir was summoned to surrender, in the following letter to the Governor.

Grantham, January 29, 1646.

Sir,

We are sent down and authorized by the two Houses of Parliament, to use our best endeavours for finishing the bloody intestine war wherewith this kingdom hath been now for some time afflicted. And in pursuance of that duty, we do hereby, in their names, demand of you that you surrender into our hands the Castle of Belvoir for their use, &c. &c.<sup>1</sup>

Signed by the before mentioned Officers.

Sir Gervase Lucas was obliged to treat with them, the Garrison being very short of water: and the Commissioners, in a letter dated Grantham, January 31st., late at night, informed the House of Commons, through William Lenthall, Esq., the Speaker, that Belvoir Castle had capitulated.

On May 5th, 1646, the harassed King gave himself up to the Scottish Army then before Newark, ordered the Governor to surrender the town ; and the Civil War ceased.

The Civil War having ceased, the Corporation of Grantham indemnified those inhabitants who had been compelled to provide horses, wood, candles, &c., for the Garrison: levying a rate for the purpose. They also set about effacing the foul traces of the late unnatural strife, and providing labour for the poor;

1 Eller's Hist. of Belvoir Castle.

and themselves returned to old accustomed habits, such as that of wearing their gowns when going abroad, ‘as before these late distractions.’ They also invited the neighbouring Clergy still resident, to revive the Tuesday Lecture, by preaching it in turns, it having been suspended for four years, ‘owing to the wars in these parts.’<sup>1</sup>

The ozier beds were made in 1647, by planting the marshy ground near the Witham with 500 ozier sets; and every householder was ordered to pave four yards from his own door.

The town, however, was still plagued by the presence of the soldiery; Sir Thomas Fairfax having sent prisoners into the town, to be tried by a Council of War, under the charge of Captain Grymes and a guard, which cost the town £20. The Soldiers mutinied, and the Alderman interfering to suppress the riot, a trooper tried to cut down his Worship, but a Barber, Richard Black, received the stroke on his own arm, which was maimed by the blow. Whereupon, at the next Alderman’s Court, they opened the common box, where fines were deposited, and finding £3 16s. 11d. in it, they comforted the valiant Barber with £2 10s.

At the Alderman’s Court, held Oct. 11, 1647, an Act of Parliament of Sept. 9th, in that year, was read, and the Court acting upon it, the following Comburgesses and Burgesses were dismissed and removed from the Corporation, for having been in arms against the Parliament; viz., Mr. Rawlinson, Alderman elect for 1648; Robt. Calcraft, and Edward Christian, the martyr Alderman of 1643; George Loyd for having served four years in Newark Garrison against the Parliamentary army, and also for having been one of Col. Cavendish’s detachment when the King’s troops took the town; since which feat he had never returned to his home. Gilbert Chauntele for being of the foraging party that plundered the Grantham Butchers; and especially because, by an invoice found at Lincoln when the army took that town, he was proved to have supplied the

1 Corporation Records.

Royalist Garrison there with gunpowder. All these were forthwith 'cleanly put out' of their places of Burgesses ; with several others.

But being required to do watch and ward, and also conceiving themselves illegally treated, they, on the following choice of an Alderman in the Church, cried out 'no vote, no charter ;' and justified their words at the Alderman's Court afterwards ; maintaining that the Corporation by submitting to the dictation and interference of Parliament, had betrayed the Borough rights and forfeited the charter.

To finish their history, I may here state that on the Restoration, at a Court held in 1661, a mandamus commanding their reinstatement was read, by virtue of which the Court decided that they had been illegally 'knocked off' and reinstated them, at the same time 'knocking off' those who had taken part with the rebels.

In 1650, to provide employment for the poor, the Corporation engaged 'a Jersey man from Nottingham' to set up a manufactory of cloth in the town ; and built a cloth mill ; but the scheme does not seem to have prospered.

In 1651, we find troops in Grantham, commanded by Adj. Gen. Nelthorpe, Capt. Thomas Izold, Cornet William Walls, and Quarter Master Ward.

To apportion the monthly assessment for the army, by order of Parliamentary Commissioners, the following 'Annual Value or Pound Rate upon the Town and Soke of Grantham' was made by a Committee of Surveys, and certified by W. Armine and W. Brownlow, Justices of the Peace, in 1651.

	£.		£.
Gonerby cum Manthorpe	800	Ponton Magna . . . . .	200
Belton . . . . .	480	South Stoke . . . . .	200
Barkstone . . . . .	440	Easton . . . . .	200
Londonthorpe . . . . .	420	Colsterworth cum Memb.	260
Braceby . . . . .	180	Grantham . . . . .	860
Saperton . . . . .	250		
Harlaxton . . . . .	1030		
Denton . . . . .	450		
			<hr/> £5770
			<hr/>

## The Charter of the Borough.

---

CAMDEN says appropriately and truly of the despotic Feudal system, that it darkened the Saxon liberties of the subject, not suddenly, but, ‘insensibly, as night and day creep one on the other.’

It is more than probable that Grantham, remaining for 150 years after the Conquest a Crown lordship, retained most of its ancient liberties ; and it appears from a writ of Henry the Third, dated 15th May, 1221 ; that on the first grant of the lordship to a subject. (about 1125,) the Burgesses of Grantham made terms with him respecting their liberties.

The writ in question is as follows :

‘The King to the Sheriff of Lincoln. We command you to cause an inquisition to be made by twelve honest and lawful men of your county, as to what liberties and free customs the Burgesses and others of the town of the Soke of Grantham were accustomed to have in the time of William de Tankerville the elder ; and to cause them to have the same liberties and free customs without hindrance.’

It would be interesting to find the return made to this writ, but I have not met with it.

In 1290, some in Grantham claimed a privilege, enjoyed in certain towns, by which, persons who were competent to cast accounts and measure cloth were enabled, though under legal age, validly to transfer or sell their property. It was pleaded,

and referred to a jury to say, whether there was or ever had been such a privilege or custom in Grantham; and the jury returned that no such custom was known in the town.<sup>1</sup>

We may infer from the terms of this writ, that Grantham had no Charter of rights in 1221; but that the Burgesses had privileges and customs, recognised because of ancient usage.

In the Hundred Rolls, and in the pleadings on the Quo Warranto, against the Lord of Grantham, in 1281, respecting his invasion of the rights of the Crown in Grantham, we do not find any reference made to a Charter of the Borough which would have been unanswerable evidence against his invasion of rights generally; and the conclusion is, that the Borough had no Charter then, but only what are called prescriptive rights.

There is in the Roll of Issues, under date May 2, 1371, the following entry :

'To the Burgesses and good men of the town of Grantham, money paid to them in discharge of the £40 which they lent to the King at the receipt of the Exchequer on the 26th of March last past, as appears in the Roll of Receipts of that day, £40.'

If there had then been a recognized Alderman of the Burgesses, he might have been mentioned as the lender, or among the lenders, of the money. King Edward the Third was always in great straits for money to pay his armies, and it is not impossible that this loan was acknowledged by the grant of a Charter to Grantham.

If the specification in the published Calendar of Patent Rolls is correct, Grantham Borough had a Charter in the days of Edward the Third; for Richard the Second, who succeeded him in 1377, granted in that year, a Charter of Confirmation to the Alderman and Burgesses of Grantham. And this early Charter is confirmed by our finding John del Hay described as Alderman of Grantham in 1388, among the Manucaptors of Thomas Earl of Gloucester, summoned to the Parliament.<sup>2</sup>

1 Placita, 18, Ed. 1.

2 Parliamentary Rolls, 11 Ric. 2.

I have not had an opportunity of seeing this Charter of 1877, but its existence and contents might easily be ascertained.

These early Charters were not Charters of Incorporation. Grantham was first made a Corporate town by the Charter of the second year of Edward the Fourth, 1463. This Charter constitutes Grantham a free Borough, corporate in name and deed, of the Alderman and Burgesses; grants to them a Mercatorial Guild, with the same liberties as the inhabitants have been accustomed to have; makes the Alderman, Burgesses, and their successors corporate, and one perpetual commonalty, by the name of 'The Alderman and Burgesses of Grantham,' with power to hold and give lands, to plead and be impleaded, and to have and use a common seal. Also grants that the Burgesses may elect from among themselves thirteen comburgesses, and name one of them annually to the office of Alderman. That none of the Burgesses should be compellable to serve or bear any office of burden without the Borough. That the Corporation shall have the fines and forfeitures of all criminals within the Borough, and jurisdiction over real and personal actions; shall have the return of all writs, and shall elect a Coroner.

This is THE CHARTER of the Borough.

There is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, vol. 433, p. 446, a copy of letters patent granted by King Richard the Third in 1483, to the Alderman and Burgesses of Grantham, giving them the right of having a goal, and executing precepts and warrants within the town and soke; and that the Sheriff of the county should have no execution thereof within the same. This seems to have been the principal point in the Charter grant. For the Sheriff frequently invaded the rights of the Corporation in this respect; and so late as 1683, the Town Clerk was sent to shew this Charter to Sir Robert Tyrwhit, the High Sheriff, that he might warn his Bailiff not to serve writs in the jurisdiction of the Alderman of Grantham.

This Charter of Richard the Third is not known to exist among the Public Records of the Kingdom. But it may have been enrolled and afterwards *esloigned*.<sup>1</sup> The names of the attesting witnesses prove that it was granted in that King's reign; otherwise it might be supposed that it is the Charter of Richard the Second attributed by mistake to Richard the Third. The Copy among the Harleian MSS. came most probably from Lord Burleigh's Papers.

Successive Sovereigns, by their Letters Patent, confirmed and a little enlarged the privileges granted by these early Charters. But having already got too close within ken of the Lawyers, I shall notice nothing in the subsequent history of the Charter till the year 1634: when the Queen, Henrietta, wife of Charles the First, Lady of the Manor, proposed to grant the Corporation certain privileges which they maintained they had long had by Charter; and they took advice thereon, and the matter seems to have come to nothing.

Charles the First had confirmed the privileges of the Borough in 1632, and among them is recited, the right of the Alderman and Comburgesses to hold, during the Fairs, Courts of Pie Powder, that is, of *Pieds Poudrés* or dusty feet; so called, it is said, because offenders in the fair were brought up, tried, and sentenced on the spot, without remand, before they had had time to shake the dust off their feet.

Queen Henrietta was declared guilty of high treason by the Parliament in 1642, on her withdrawing to Holland; and in 1652, we find Pyers and Samson, two creatures of the Parliament, as Lords of the Manor of Grantham, annoying the Corporation with a Quo Warranto; and claiming certain lands in the Borough. Sampson died, and Massey succeeded him as joint Lord with Pyers; the Corporation compromised the suit and became their tenants. The Parliament granting the Corporation a lease of the tolls of the two Charter Fairs, of the Fee Farm, and of the Mills.

1 A well bred and official term, not to be confounded with *purloined*.

At the restoration of Charles the Second to his father's throne, on May 29, 1660, the Charters of the Borough and many of its records were in the custody of the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, for what reason does not appear; and he delivered them up in open court to the Alderman, Nov. 30, 1660, he being then Bishop of the diocese.

The oaths of supremacy and allegiance were taken by the Alderman and Corporation, July 11, 1660; and the Queen having acquired the lordship, wrote to the Alderman requesting that Sir Henry Wood, the Comptroller of her household, might be elected one of the Borough Members, which was accordingly done.

The Borough also forwarded a petition to the King praying that the Corporation might continue tenants of the Crown as formerly; and sealed a surrender to the King of the tolls of the two Charter Fairs, of the Fee Farm, and of the rent of the Mills 'which had been conveyed to the Corporation by the late *pretended Parliament*.'

The Charter was also sent up to London to be renewed, in 1661; and it was put to vote by the Alderman whether the town should be made a Manor town or not, during the abeyance of the Charter, and it was resolved that it should continue an Alderman town as heretofore. The Charter was not renewed till 1684, and the process cost the town £170.

In 1684, Charles the Second, bent on securing despotic power to the Crown by making officers of Corporations to be elected and removed at the Royal will, directed the Sheriff of Lincolnshire to serve a writ of *venire facias* on the Corporation of Grantham, requiring them to shew cause why they used certain franchises and privileges within the Borough. This writ was served on the Alderman by the under Sheriff in person, June 30, 1684. On this, the Charter was surrendered into the King's hands, with a prayer for a new Charter.

The Corporation were terrified by the conduct of the infamous Chief Justice Jeffries, who came on circuit to Lincoln

in this year, 1684, seized and carried back to London the Charter of Lincoln, with several others within his circuit, of which number Grantham Charter must have been one : these he offered to the King as an oblation of his own loyalty, and a triumph over the liberties of the people.<sup>1</sup>

But on Feb. 5, 1685, death suddenly paralysed the hand with which the tyrant had grasped the rights of his people ; and his successor James the Second granted a Charter to Grantham by which the Chief Magistrate was made a Mayor and the Comburgesses Aldermen.

On April 25, 1688, a Quo Warranto was served on the Mayor against this Charter, requiring an appearance in answer to be put in almost immediately. On June 25, an order of the King in Council was received and read at the Alderman's court, commanding the removal of the then six Aldermen, agreeably with a proviso of their late Charter. On the same day, the Mayor held a second court at 7 in the evening, at which, in obedience to a letter under the King's sign manual, six persons were named and declared to be elected Aldermen in their stead. This letter was delivered to the Mayor by a King's messenger.

However, on Nov. 6, of the same year, the King's Proclamation for restoring Corporations to their ancient rights having been received, the court, as it existed before the Quo Warranto, met, and the Corporation resumed the former tenure of its rights. This Proclamation is said in histories to have been issued by James the Second from Faversham, whither he had fled, on the Prince of Orange landing at Torbay.<sup>1</sup> But the Proclamation was received in Grantham on the very day he landed there, Nov. 5 ; so that it must have been issued before that event.

Grantham acted on the Proclamation, and by so doing rendered a new Charter unnecessary, and also reacquired de facto its ancient rights : as afterwards was decided by the Judges.

1 See Kennet quoted by Stephens on Boroughs, p. 1794.

The only circumstances that remain to be noticed as affecting the constitution of the Corporation, are the changes consequent on the Municipal Reform Act of 1835.

By that Act, the Alderman was transmuted into a Mayor. The twelve senior Comburgesses being condensed into four Aldermen, and the twelve Junior Comburgesses becoming Town Councillors, constitute the Mayor's court. The Borough is governed by a Commission of the Peace, consisting of the Mayor, ex-Mayor, and four Borough Magistrates, who are named by the Lord Chancellor for the Crown.

The ancient Borough boundaries being found not continuous, the outlying portions and the whole Soke beyond the Borough were added to the county, for all purposes of justice.

A perusal of the Records of the Corporation of Grantham shews, that the present Corporation are the representatives and successors of men, who, each in his time and office, protected the liberties of the town to the best of his abilities. And that during several centuries, no expense has been grudged, nor labour spared, by the Corporation to secure those liberties from the assaults of that lawlessness which is incapable of enjoying, and of that despotism which is incapable of tolerating, true liberty.

## The Arms of the Borough, &c.

---

THE Arms of the Borough were allowed and confirmed by Queen Elizabeth in 1562. The shield is checky, or and azure; a bordure sable charged with verdoy of trefoils slipped argent.

Under the arms, exemplified as above, is written in the original grant, 'the arms of the Queen's Borough of Grantham, confirmed and registered, which was given in the year of our Lord God, 1562. John Taylor, Alderman.'

The shield is that of the De Warennes; their family was extinct before the arms were granted as above. The bordure was probably added, as a difference, to make the arms those of the Borough.

There is an ancient military or knight's mace in the town, said to have been once in the keeping of the Corporation, along the haft of which the trefoil or ivy leaf is worked. It is an object of very great interest, a relic of ancient armoury; two feet two inches in length, and weighs between three and four pounds; made of iron, the head having seven projecting flanges, each terminating in a spike; one of these has been broken off, and the next bent, evidently by a blow. In the shaft is a hole through which passed a ring on the last link of the chain by which it was fastened to the saddle. If the trefoil was a bearing of the De Warennes, this was the mace of one of those renowned Barons.

The Charter of 1464 sanctions the employment of two sergents to bear maces before the Alderman. Borough maces are sometimes called maces of assize ; and it is not improbable that originally they were in length and weight the standard yard and pound.

A large pair of maces were got in 1618 : these, I suppose, were used till Brownlow Cust, Esq., afterwards first Baron Brownlow, eldest son of Sir John Cust, Member for Grantham and Speaker of the House of Commons, gave the present handsome maces to the Corporation, on the occasion of his receiving the Freedom of the Borough in 1766.

The statute seal is described in the Charter granted to the Borough by Charles the First in 1692, which authorizes the Corporation to make, assume, and apply, one seal of two parts ; whereof one part shall be the major part, and shall always be in the custody of the Alderman ; and the other part, the minor part, and shall always be in the hands of the Town Clerk.

This statute seal of the Corporation is a double seal, so contrived as to make an impression of the Chamberlain's seal on the under surface, and of the Corporation arms on the upper surface, of the wax. The seal, in consequence, is in two portions : each consisting of a circular disk of silver  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in diameter,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch in thickness, and weighing six ounces.

The upper or Alderman's half seal has the Borough arms within a rim on which is inscribed, '*Sigillum Burgensium et Communitatis Ville de Grantham.*' Seal of the Burgesses and Commonalty of Grantham.

The lower or Chamberlain's half seal has a circle of six cusps, terminating in fleurs de lis ; and within, a six-leafed flower ; round this device is inscribed, '*Sigill. Burgensiumierr Camarari de Graham.*' Borough seal of the Chamberlain of Grantham. *Burgensiumierr* is an awkward word for *Burgense* ; the termination is Norman, and from the name of the town being written Graham, I suspect this half of the seal to be either much more ancient than the other, or at least a copy of an old

seal. Grantham is not found written Graham later than the 4th century. Formerly the Mayor and Chamberlain or Town Clerk each kept his own half of the statute seal.

On the back of the Mayor's half seal are the arms of Hall, with this inscription, '*Ex dono Arthuri Hall de Grantham Armigeri Radulpho Locko Aldermano ejusdem Villæ et Soce. Anno Domini 1581. Exculpatum (exsculptum?) tempore Thomæ Archer, Aldermani, 1618.*' The gift of Arthur Hall to the Alderman, 1581, engraved in the time of Thomas Archer, Ald. 1618. The Borough plate need not be specified. In the last century, the Corporation drank from silver cups called tumblers, because, having convex bottoms, they could not, when once filled, be set down till emptied. They have been banished.

The twelve Constables formerly had each his halberd.

## *Members for the Borough.*

---

THE Charter of Edward the Fourth gave to the Borough of Grantham the right of electing two Burgesses to represent the Borough in Parliament. It appears that these Burgesses were paid a salary for their services in Parliament till as late as 1586.

In that year, Arthur Hall, Esq., one of the Borough Members, offended the House of Commons by asserting that they were 'votaries of Bacchus,' and he was called to the Bar of the House, which, for some irregularity in his election, or because he was not a Burgess nor even a Freeman of Grantham, declared him incapable of ever sitting in the House. He brought an action against the town generally for his wages as their Member; and the inhabitants petitioned the Lord Chancellor to stay the granting of any attachment or other process against them for the recovery of such wages: and the inhibition was granted. The right of Members to receive wages for their services was not questioned in the case.

As late as 1765, the Members used to be elected in the Grammar school; but the Society of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, having complained of the damage done to the school room by zealous voters in the election of that year, the Alderman's court decided that in future the elections should be held in the Church, or in the Guildhall.

Sir John Cust, Bart., was one of the Borough Members from 1743 till his death in 1770. He was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons in 1761.

## The Ancient Corporation of Grantham.

---

FROM the Corporation Records which are perfect from 1633 it appears that the ancient Corporation consisted, agreeably with the Charter of Edward the 4th, of an Alderman and twelve senior Comburgesses, called the first twelve; and twelve junior Comburgesses, the second twelve. The two twelves were each a Jury, all Comburgesses being Jurymen sworn.

We are reminded by the constitution of this perpetual Jury, of the Lagemen, or Lawmen of Saxon times. Domesday informs us that in Stamford and Lincoln there were, in each town, twelve Lagemen, two to each ward. There were also six wards in Grantham.

The Stamford twelve Lagemen were not prevented by the Norman system from continuing; but appear to have had the right of electing successors into their number; so that, 200 years after the Conquest, they are found at Stamford, and appealing to Domesday survey as acknowledging their rights.

The Stamford Lagemen asserted that, of ancient time, their predecessors were judges of the law, that is to say, Justices of the Peace, and held such office of the King: and Domesday states that two exercised their office in every ward in Stamford. After 1280 all trace of them seems lost. But it is worthy of consideration whether the word in the old records now read Rageman, ought not to be read Lageman

The Grantham Comburgesses, that is to say, the first twelve, were made Justices of the Peace within the Town and Soke by the Letters Patent of Richard the Third, 1483. They were all, from the first incorporation of the Borough, if not earlier, exempted from serving on Juries impanelled beyond the Town and Soke.

The Alderman's court consisted of these two companies of Comburgesses.

Besides these two companies, there were Commoners of the Alderman's court, who were Ward Jurymen; but had no vote at a court. I have found but three records of Assemblies: at one of these, 7 Comburgesses, 7 Burgesses, 19 Commoners, and 24 Freemen were present, and voted that the £300 demanded by Sir John Fairfax as the ransom of the Alderman, should be levied and paid; and assessors were named out of all the four classes.

But at an Assembly held three days after, at which only 5 Comburgesses, 9 Burgesses, 22 Commoners, and no Freemen were present, that vote was rescinded, and the assessment annulled.

Besides the Alderman's courts, and the Assemblies, the Commoners held Commoners' Houses, 'upon their common business,' by permission of the Alderman's court, on days appointed by that court; at their own request. I apprehend that the Commoners elected Freemen into their number.

At first, as it would appear, the Commoners were a small body; in later times their increasing numbers may have led the Alderman's court to disown their Houses.

There are many reasons for concluding that the Commonalty, *Communitas*, comprised all Freemen, Commoners, and Burgesses, to the exclusion of all other inhabitants of the town. Commoners do not appear on the Records after 1691.

During the seventeenth century, in accordance with the policy then prevalent, Grantham was very jealous of the settlement of strangers in the town, and severely fined all inhabitants who

harboured 'inmates,' as such settlers were called ; and insisted on all qualified persons taking up their freedom.

The Officers of the Corporation were, besides the Recorder and his Deputy, and the Alderman's Clerk,—

The Coroner,	Burgess Chamberlain,
The Escheator,	Commoner Chamberlain,
Two Chief Constables,	Two Sergeants at Mace,
Three Key-keepers of Common Hutch,	
Twelve Petty Constables,	Bailiff of the Liberties,
Two Pricers of Corn,	Three Market Assayers,
Gaoler,	Four Leather Sealers,
	A Bellman.

Four musicians also were annually hired to be the Town Waits ; they received livery coats every year, and wore ribbons and lace : as appears from a decision of the court, that if they indulged in such vanities they should 'provide themselves.' These town waits had licence to play through the streets during certain seasons, soliciting money.

It has already been stated that the Alderman and first twelve never appeared abroad but in their gowns. The Alderman was distinguished by a *tippet*: in 1693 Capt. Smith presented the Alderman with a pair of gold clasps for his *tippet*.

In 1792 the Corporation determined, in conformity with the King's proclamation on the subject, to exert their best endeavours to suppress all unlawful and seditious publications, and to bring the authors thereof to justice.

In February, 1798, on the breaking out of the Continental war, the town waits and the Alderman's feast were discontinued, and the Alderman's salary of £100. per ann., resigned, to be paid into the Bank of England, towards defraying the expenses of the war, so long as it might last.

After the Restoration, Grantham was the head quarters of a Regiment of Militia, which was disbanded in 1696 ; and the colours were deposited with the Alderman.

The Grantham Volunteer Corps of Infantry raised in 1795, consisted of one company of 4 officers and 100 rank and file.

The Grantham Armed Association was formed in 1798, for service within the Soke. It consisted of two companies of Infantry.

On the probability of the war with Russia in 1852, Grantham was made the head quarters of the Royal South Lincolnshire Militia.

The Corporation have never omitted any fitting opportunity of expressing their loyalty to the Throne. Their various addresses to the Crown may be found in the London Gazettes.

In August, 1633, the then Alderman of Grantham, Henry Ferman, did homage to King Charles the First, as he passed through the town on his road to Scotland, where, during his visit, the seeds were sown of that unnatural Rebellion in which he was betrayed by the Scots to the Parliament of England, which took away his life.

In 1707 the Corporation presented to Queen Anne, at London, a loyal address on the occasion of the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, with hearty prayers for the national harmony which that union inaugurated; and in 1855 the Corporation of Grantham witnessed the fruits of long domestic peace, in the progress of Her Majesty Queen Victoria through Grantham to her residence in the Scottish Highlands. Science triumphed in the speed with which the Queen travelled, and loyalty exulted in the single-minded devotion of Saxon and Gael alike to their Sovereign.

On this occasion, Sept. 6, 1855, the Mayor of Grantham, Robert A. White, Esq., attended by the Borough Magistrates and other Members, with the Officers of the Corporation, and by the Clergy of the town, and Master of the Grammar School, presented a loyal address to the Queen, which was graciously received by Her Majesty.

## Corporation Records.

---

THE Records of the Corporation of Grantham, to which by the kindness of successive Mayors I have been allowed free access, (to which permission my readers are indebted for much of the information contained in these notes), are perfect from the year 1633. Few Corporations, I believe, have their records extant from an earlier date than 1660.

In 1633 the Corporation had documents and records from the time of Henry the Sixth, that is for 200 years back. In 1633 the Town Clerk, assisted by a Committee, viewed, and caused to be engrossed on parchment, all the ancient Borough records and documents of importance, but of these none are now known to exist.

The records and deeds were kept in 'the common hutch' in the vestry, the crypt of the Church, under three keys, which were in the custody of the key-keepers, who were sworn not to open them but by an order from the Alderman's court.

The opening of the hutch was accompanied by some ceremonies, the Alderman and a quorum of Comburgesses always being present.

This ancient common hutch with its three locks still exists in the crypt. It was sacrilegiously plundered, in the year 1808, of the communion plate: which was replaced from the fund arising out of Mr. Clarke's bequest.

## Election of the Alderman of Grantham.

---

### ANCIENT AND LAUDABLE CUSTOM OF THE BOROUGH.

The most ancient existing record of the ceremony observed at the Election of the Alderman of Grantham is of the year 1634 ; it is as follows :

*Villa sive Burgus de Grantham in Com. Linc.*

An assembly holden by John Mills, Gent., Alderman of the Borough and Soke of Grantham, in the County of Lincoln, and the Comburgesses and Burgesses of the same, in Corpus Christi Guild, in the Prebendary Church of Grantham, aforesaid, upon Friday next after St. Luke's Day, being the 21st day of October, 1634.

First, the said Mr. John Mills, being Alderman, did sit down in the said Corpus Christi Quire, within the Prebendary Church, aforesaid.

Then next to him did sit upon the cushion or place of election, two Comburgesses, viz., Mr. Giles Andrew, and Mr. Richard Coney. Then were there three Comburgesses sent down into the body of the Church,<sup>1</sup> viz., Mr. Edward Coddington, Mr. Lewis Somersall, and Mr. Thomas Archer ; out of which three, one is to be chosen to sit upon the place of election with the other two, viz., with Mr. Andrew and Mr. Coney.

1 In the vernacular, 'put them down the Church.'

Then the said Mr. Archer was chosen to sit upon the place of election, with the said Mr. Andrew and Mr. Coney.

Then were there three Comburgesses set upon the cushion or place of election, viz., Mr. Andrew, Mr. Coney, and Mr. Archer. Out of which three, one is to be chosen Alderman of this town or Borough of Grantham for this year now next ensuing. And so by the general consent of this Assembly, Mr. Giles Andrew was chosen Alderman<sup>1</sup> of this town or Borough of Grantham for this year next ensuing.

Whereupon the said Mr. John Mills discharged himself<sup>2</sup> from the place and office of Alderman, according to the ancient custom; and so the said Mr. Giles Andrew, being chosen Alderman for the whole year now next to come, in manner and form aforesaid, hath at this assembly, taken the oaths according to the ancient and laudable custom of this Borough. And so this assembly is dismissed.

1 'Was espied to be Alderman.'

2 'Knocked himself off.'

## Chief Magistrates of the Borough.

---

In the following list, the names before 1543 have been collected from the documents quoted in the notes. Those after that year, are from a printed list corrected by the parish register.

RICHARD THE SECOND.		R. Gibson .....	1560
1 John del Hay .....	1388	Simon Hanson .....	61
HENRY THE SIXTH.		J. Taylor .....	62
John Lane .....	1430	Gabriel Best.....	63
EDWARD THE FOURTH.		J. Brotherton .....	64
2 Henry Curteys .....	64	Humphrey Dixon .....	65
RICHARD THE THIRD.		R. Wright .....	66
3 Henry Hodlyn .....	83	E. Morton .....	67
HENRY THE EIGHTH.		J. Peake .....	68
4 Robert Wastell .....	1528	T. Simpson .....	69
Thomas Allen .....	43	R. Gibson .....	70
W. Pattison .....	44	Simon Hanson .....	71
T. Pattison .....	45	Gabriel Best .....	72
G. Atkinson .....	46	John Brotherton .....	73
EDWARD THE SIXTH.		Ralph Lockitt .....	74
John Allen .....	47	William Nidd .....	75
Humphrey Dixon .....	48	Richard Osland .....	76
Geoff. Knell .....	49	G. Allin and John Peake ..	77
Richard Allen .....	50	Robert Perkins .....	78
W. Pattison .....	51	Thomas Simpson .....	79
Richard Atkinson .....	52	Christopher Fisher .....	80
PHILIP AND MARY.		Walter Audley .....	81
T. Wilkinson .....	53	Ralph Locke .....	82
T. Kirkby .....	54	Thomas Fisher .....	83
Ambrose Morton .....	55	David Dixon .....	84
Roger Johnson .....	56	John Peake .....	85
James Walls .....	57	Robert Perkins .....	86
ELIZABETH.		William Coddington .....	87
R. Wright .....	58	Robert Berry .....	88
T. Fisher and R. Perkins ..	59	John Gibson.....	89

1 Parliamentary Rolls, II Ric. 2nd.—2 Charter of Edward 4th.

3 Letters Patent of Richard 3rd.—4 Bishop Fox's Grammar School Deed.

William Hill .....	1590	Thomas Archer .....	1637
David Dixon .....	91	Lewis Somersall .....	88
William Kirkby .....	92	Alexander More, Knt. ....	39
Thomas Archer .....	93	Richard Pearson .....	40
Robert Perkins .....	94	Thomas Matkin .....	41
Alexander Clifford .....	95	George Lord .....	42
William Coddington .....	96	Robert Calcraft .....	43
Robert Berry .....	97	E. Christian .....	44
John Gibson .....	98	Thomas Mills .....	45
William Still .....	99	J. Mills & Chris. Hanson ..	46
William Spurr .....	1600	Richard Coney .....	47
Thomas Archer .....	01	George Briggs .....	48
Robert Perkins .....	02	CHARLES THE SECOND.	
JAMES THE FIRST.		John Bee .....	49
Edward Murray .....	03	James Gibson .....	50
David Dixon .....	04	W. Clarke .....	51
William Brown .....	05	Thomas Doughty .....	52
William Jessop .....	06	Robert Trevillian .....	53
William Berry .....	07	Thomas Mills .....	54
William Coddington .....	08	Edward Towne .....	55
William Haskard .....	09	Thomas Bayley .....	56
John Gibson .....	10	W. Clarke .....	57
Ralph Clarke, Senior .....	11	T. Doughty .....	58
P. Richardson .....	12	R. Trevillian .....	59
Thomas Archer .....	13	J. Simpson .....	60
Peter Wilson .....	14	T. Grant .....	61
Miles Greenwood .....	15	Gilbert Chauntler .....	62
Stephen Fremitt .....	16	Michael Taylor .....	63
Alexander More .....	17	R. Calcraft .....	64
E. Coddington .....	18	T. Mills and J. Watson ..	65
Thomas Wheatley .....	19	T. Hanson .....	66
Lewis Somersall .....	20	R. Leenings .....	67
R. Clarke, Senior .....	21	T. Short .....	68
Miles Greenwood .....	22	R. Calcraft .....	69
Arthur Rhodes .....	23	Richard Calcraft .....	70
E. Fisher .....	24	J. Tomlinson and Richard Holly .....	71
CHARLES THE FIRST.		J. Lenton .....	72
Alexander More .....	25	H. Humes .....	73
Edward Watson .....	26	E. Rawlinson .....	74
Thomas Wheatley .....	27	J. Coddington .....	75
Lewis Somersall .....	28	R. Cole .....	76
P. Richardson .....	29	T. Matkin .....	77
Miles Greenwood .....	30	Michael Taylor .....	78
Alexander More, Knt. ..	31	J. Wing .....	79
Henry Cole .....	32	W. Mills and T. Short ..	80
Henry Ferman .....	33	T. Ireland.....	81
John Mills .....	34	Richard Calcraft .....	82
Giles Andrew .....	35	Richard Holly .....	83
Richard Coney .....	36		

J. Coddington	1684	Ralph Clarke, Senr.	1725
JAMES THE SECOND.		Benjamin Towne	26
MAYORS.		GEORGE THE SECOND.	
Robert Calcraft	85	William Kirke	27
Robert Cole	86	John Fox	28
Thomas Matkin	87	Henry Short	29
Thomas Ireland	88	H. Johnson & J. Woodward	30
WILLIAM AND MARY.		J. Woodward	31
MAYOR AND ALDERMAN.		T. Stevens	32
Edward Secker	89	J. Rawlinson & Isaac Garnar	33
ALDERMEN.		T. Langley	34
Edward Lewsley	90	William Kirke	35
J. Robinson	91	Edward Newton	36
John Beck	92	J. Davies	37
Simon Grant	93	J. Fisher	38
William Haskard	94	William Gibson	39
John Smith	95	Ralph Clarke	40
Robert Cole, Senr,	96	Benjamin Towne	41
Edward Lewsley	97	John Fox	42
J. Robinson	98	J. Rawlinson	43
Simon Grant, Senr.	99	William Rowley	44
William Haskard	1700	Adlard Stukey	45
William Kirke	01	Henry Short	46
QUEEN ANNE.		Richard Peete	47
William Burbidge	02	John Stones	48
Anthony Kirke	03	William Southern	49
T. Bayley	04	T. Stanser, Senr.	50
Joseph Lowe	05	William Sharpin	51
J. Broadfield	06	Thomas Gozna	52
J. Calcraft	07	Edward Newton	53
William Doughty	08	Benjamin Twigge	54
J. Coddington	09	J. Rawlinson	55
J. Ferman	10	Richard Peete	56
T. Crickloe	11	J. Wheelwright	57
Robert Langley	12	John Stones	58
T. Rawlinson	13	William Southern & J. Stan-	
GEORGE THE FIRST.		ser, Junr.	59
William Wing	14	John Todd	60
Richard Sentance	15	GEORGE THE THIRD.	
E. Garthwaite	16	Hastwell Butcher	61
Isaac Garnar	17	J. Holt	62
John Davies	18	William Sharpin	63
Simon Grant, Junr.	19	Thomas Gozna	64
John Crickloe	20	Robert Barnes	65
Joseph Clarke	21	Benjamin Twigge	66
John Fisher	22	J. Wheelwright	67
William Gibson	23	Thomas Short	68
J. Queenborough	24	John Whaley	69

John Newcome .....	1770	James Hand .....	1816
John Burbidge .....	71	Frederic Lely .....	17
Hastwell Butcher .....	72	George Cowherd .....	18
John Holt .....	73	James Hand & Frederic Lely	19
Wildbore Garnar .....	74	Frederic Lely .....	20
Robert Barnes .....	75	GEORGE THE FOURTH.	
Thomas Short .....	76	John Langwith .....	21
John Calcraft .....	77	George White .....	22
Richard Briggs, Senr. ....	78	Thomas Chettie & Frederic	
Thomas Stanser .....	79	Newcome .....	23
John Garnar .....	80	Sylvester Rogers .....	24
William Newton .....	81	Robert Calcraft .....	25
John Wood .....	82	Thomas Harvey .....	26
J. Rawlinson .....	83	Richard Briggs .....	27
Joseph Lyne .....	84	John Brooks .....	28
Thomas Barston .....	85	George White .....	29
William Twigge .....	86	Lawrence Wyles .....	30
Richard Briggs .....	87	WILLIAM THE FOURTH.	
Beaumont Leeson .....	88	Sylvester Rogers .....	31
Wildbore Garnar .....	89	Robert Calcraft .....	32
Thomas Stanser and Thomas Rawlinson .....	90	Thomas Harvey .....	33
Matthew Pape .....	91	Richard Briggs .....	34
William Martin .....	92	John Brooks .....	35
Richard Holt .....	93	MAYOBS.	
James Cooke .....	94	William Todkill Catlett .....	36
Edward Wilson .....	95	VICTORIA.	
Samuel Briggs .....	96	Joseph Wyles .....	37
Francis Turner .....	97	Robert Mather .....	38
George North .....	98	Thomas Harvey .....	39
J. Hemingway .....	99	William Walkington .....	40
Robert Alderman .....	1800	William Eaton .....	41
John Hall .....	01	Edward Lynch Hough .....	42
Beaumont Leeson .....	02	Robert Henry Johnston .....	43
Matthew Pape .....	03	George Kewney .....	44
John Barston .....	04	John Fowler Burbidge, Senr. ....	45
William Todkill Catlett .....	05	Charles Miller .....	46
W. F. Kirke .....	06	Frederic Pern Newcome .....	47
Richard Holt .....	07	John Wilson .....	48
Richard Winter .....	08	Robert Mather .....	49
George Cowherd .....	09	Thomas Ekin .....	50
John Garnar .....	10	John Lely Ostler .....	51
Francis Turner .....	11	Thomas Winter .....	52
J. Barston .....	12	Frederic Malim .....	53
William Todkill Catlett .....	13	John Fowler Burbidge, Junr. ....	54
W. F. Kirke .....	14	Robert Azlack White .....	55
Richard Winter .....	15	Robert Shipman .....	56
		William Eaton .....	57

## Fairs and Markets.

---

THE original Grantham Fair, for long the only one, formerly began on Oct. 15th, the day of the translation of St. Wolfran ; since the adoption of the new Calendar style, it has been held on October 26th. It is not a Charter Fair, but of more ancient use than any Charter known, and probably dates from before the Conquest. It is not proclaimed by the Corporation but by the Chief Constable. It is commonly known as the Onion Fair.

The town holds three Charter Fairs. Two by Letters Patent of Richard the Third, 1483. One to begin on the Feast of St. Nicholas for three days. It is now opened on Dec. 17, and is called the Winter Fair.

Another of the same grant, to begin on the 5th Sunday in Lent, now commencing on the Monday after, lasting three days. This is the great annual Pleasure Fair.

Charles the First on confirming the Charter, in 1632, granted to the town a Fair on St. Peter's day and the day following, It is now held on July 7, and is known as the Cherry Fair.

In 1605, James the First gave the town a Market for woolen thread, and yarn, the tolls to be for the use of the poor.

Richard the Third granted to the Borough the tolls of a Weekly Market, to be held on the Wednesday. This Market used to be proclaimed by the Alderman and Corporation when they proclaimed the Charter Fairs. Within the last hundred years the Market has been removed to Saturday, so as not to clash with Newark Market; but by so doing the Borough lost the right to the Market tolls, which lapsed to the Lord of the Manor.

A fortnightly Market for fat stock has been established by the Corporation within the last few years. It is held on the Tuesday.

## The Prebends of Grantham.

---

It is difficult to derive positive details respecting the parish of Grantham from the Report of the Domesday valuers. The impression left by a careful consideration of their report leads me to conclude that the parish of Grantham then comprised Grantham itself, Londonthorpe, Houghton, and South or Little Gonerby. The tract afterwards called Spitalgate must then have been an unproductive heath. Manthorpe was part of South Gonerby. St. Wolfran's was the mother Church. Londonthorpe and Houghton had Chapels dependent on St. Wolfran's; Osmund, Bishop of Sarum, having already wrested two carucates of land from Londonthorpe, which had reduced that Church to a Chapelry, dependent on Grantham.

The endowment of the district had consisted of two carucates, (240 acres of land), in Londonthorpe; half a carucate and land for four oxen in Nonegetune; one carucate and land for twelve oxen in Gonerby; and in Grantham itself, eight tofts, four mills, and eight acres of meadow. In Edward the Confessor's day, the income had been £8: since then it had risen to £10, but at the time of the Conquest, its value was £5; the Norman spoilers having already invaded its endowment. The Bishop of Durham, William of Carileph, disputed the right of Ernuin, the Priest of Grantham, to seven out of the eight tofts in Grantham belonging to the Church of St. Wolfran. Hence, we account for the statement in Domesday that Grantham Church was worth only £5 a year in 1085.

I think we may infer that Grantham Church was of some importance as early as the days of Edward the Confessor, from its having then had *sac and soc* in Gonerby, a right to hold certain courts for the hearing of 'pleas arising within the Church estates. We trace the remains of this privilege in the fact that, in the thirteenth century, the Prebendaries claimed, by charter from the King, the assize of bread and ale within the fief of Grantham Church.

When Gonerby is mentioned as part of Grantham parish in the earliest records, Little Gonerby with Manthorpe is meant. Great Gonerby appears to have been an independent parish, till so impoverished, by the transfer of its income to Sarum, as to have become dependent on Grantham.

The next earliest valuation of the income of Grantham Church occurs in the Hundred Roll, 200 years after the Domesday survey,

In the interval, great changes had been made in the Ecclesiastical condition of Grantham; which it is important to notice; as the effect of them remains to this day, and is still felt in the pauperized condition of Londonthorpe and Gonerby Churches, and in the unendowed condition of Spitalgate Church. The circumstances cannot be well narrated without alluding to the system under which the changes were made.

The Primitive, Saxon, and only reasonable, system of Church endowment, provided a Priest and an independent income for every Church. The Normans conquered England for the Pope; and the Papal system was essentially one of centralization of power and money. In Feudal times, the mitred Abbot differed from the coroneted Earl, only in respect that the Abbotdom was an accumulation of Church lands, endowments, and tithes of many parishes; whilst the Earldom was an agglomeration of Manors and lay properties. The Earldom of the Norman Baron was therefore clear from the guilt of causing spiritual destitution among the people, which the endowment of an Abbey with the provision made for the maintenance of religion in remote parishes often occasioned.-

The Feudal Baron, indeed, frequently endowed and built a Parish Church on his Manor : Abbots do not appear to have had that pious practice.

Consistently with this Norman Papal system, many dioceses were fused into one ; as the dioceses of Lindsey and Leicester, with others, into the great diocese of Lincoln. And Bishops accumulated, each into his Cathedral fund, all the Church property they could obtain by grants from the Crown.

On this principle, Osmund, Bishop of Sarum, building a Cathedral at Sarum, 'to the honour of our Lord and the Virgin Mary, and for the salvation of the souls of William the Conqueror and Matilda, his Queen, and of William Rufus and of his own,' as his deed, dated April 4th, 1091, recites : constituted in it a number of regular Canons, that is to say Chantry Priests, to pray for the souls of those above enumerated ; and to support these Chantry Priests, he appropriated, among other property, the endowment of Grantham Churches, the tithes and all appurtenances of them.

The whole income which he thus diverted from its original object, (from the spiritual nurture of the living to praying for the dead,) he divided among these Chantry Priests ; the annual share of each being called a Prebend, that is to say, a stipend ; and the Canons were called Prebendary or Stipendiary Priests in Sarum Cathedral.

Bishop Osmund's Charter Deed does not mention two stipends as arising out of Grantham Church endowment. It gives to the Bishop of Sarum the disposal of those stipends or Prebends ; but the right of presenting to Grantham Church remained in the Crown.

These Chantry Priests were prohibited from performing duty any where but in Sarum Cathedral, on pain of forfeiting their stipend ; so that they could not officiate in Grantham Church. The only occasions on which they were allowed (without incurring such forfeiture) to do duty in another Church, was, whenever they accompanied the Bishop to the consecration of a Church.

This spoliation of Grantham Church left only the small tithes and offerings of the people for the maintenance of the Clergy.<sup>1</sup> But it is stated that a certain Giffard endowed Londonthorpe and Houghton Chapels with some land, to maintain full service in them.

Henry the Second, on his accession to the throne in 1154, confirmed to the Church of Sarum, by a Charter, all those Prebends, whether in Churches or lands, which Osmund had given to that Church. His Charter recites Bishop Osmund's deed, but says nothing of an annexation of Grantham Church to Sarum by his mother the Empress Matilda.

But in 1275, the Grantham Jury, being questioned by Edward the First's Commissioners, as to whether any one, Churchmen, Monks, or others, had appropriated Church patronage, originally belonging to the Crown, in Grantham, stated in reply, that 'Matilda, Queen and heiress of England, being once patroness of the Church, collated (*contulit*) it to the Mother Church of Salisbury, with the Chapels thereof, and fifteen tofts in Grantham, and Giffard's endowment of the Chapels at Houghton and Londonthorpe; and founded in Sarum two Prebends of the said Church of Grantham; and the Prebends are worth 120 mares annually, including the Chapel endowments.'

The date of this transaction cannot be recovered, as the Grantham Jury could not recollect the name of the Bishop of Lincoln, in whose time and by whose consent it was done.

The Grantham Jury, in their presentment, do not mention Bishop Osmund's act; but it may be questioned whether they do not refer to it when they say that Matilda annexed Grantham Church to the *Mother* Church of Sarum; they intending it to be understood that Sarum claimed to be the *Mother* Church of Grantham before her act of annexation.

They say '*fuit illa advocata et patrona Ecclesiae de Graham,*'

1 The future historian of Canada will compare with such transactions the late alienation of the 'Clergy Reserve lands' in Canada.

she owned the advowson of, and had the presentation to, the Church of Grantham. It was the right of presentation which she gave to the two Prebendaries, and they each appointed a Vicar to officiate in Grantham Church.

Churches are classed in ancient documents as Cathedral, Collegiate, and Parochial. All Churches in which more than one Prebend was made were Collegiate; and such Grantham became by Matilda's creation of the two Prebendaries: of whom, he who enjoyed the Northern Prebend was Senior or Dean, and Grantham Deanery dates probably from this act.

The prescribed form in which Churches were made Prebendary and Collegiate, is extant in the briefs of the Bishop of Durham constituting Lancaster and Chester Collegiate Prebendary Churches in 1283.<sup>1</sup>

The Prebends, the plunder of the endowments of our parish Churches, narrowly escaped being transferred to the Church of St. Peter at Rome, for the enrichment of the Italian Priesthood.

Among the first Prebends which the Pope attempted so to transfer, was that of Nassington in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln; but the attempt was so resisted that it was relinquished, and resulted in the appointment of an Italian Priest, named Napoleon, to the Prebend of Nassington, in Lincoln Cathedral, in 1305. Well might Robert Grossetête, Bishop of Lincoln, surnamed the 'hammerer of the Romanists,' declare that Antichrist could not treat the Church of England worse than the Pope did. And Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, who had aided in resisting the Pope's grasp at the English Prebends, made these observations on his death-bed to his son, the Earl of Lancaster, 'Seest thou the Church of England, heretofore honourable and free, enslaved by Romish and the King's unjust oppression.' This was in 1312; 200 years before Henry the Eighth.

<sup>1</sup> Charter Rolls, 20 Ed. I, given in Prynne's Records.

In the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291, the return respecting Grantham Church is as follows:

Prebend of North Grantham,	- - - - -	£53 6s. 8d.
Vicar of the same	- - - - -	11 0 0
Prebendaries in the same Church, assessed elsewhere with their Prebends.	—	—

The return for South Grantham is similar.

The form of this return is peculiar. It may be considered whether it indicates that more than two Prebendaries of Grantham were contemplated or possible.

There is not in the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291 any reference to the connexion of Grantham with Salisbury.

The next reference to the Grantham Clergy, that I have met with, is of the year 1508, when they are spoken of as 'the College of Grantham,' intimating that Grantham was a Collegiate Church, and so I presume it was considered when Henry the Eighth, in 1542, named it as the intended seat of a Bishopric, with other Churches which are known to have been Collegiate.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, made in 1535, the Prebendaries of North and South Grantham are classed among the dignitaries of Salisbury.

In the Borough Records, from 1633, it is always called the Prebendary Church of Grantham.

The earliest Prebendaries whose names I have found, are, Richard Fox, Prebendary of South Grantham, 1485; William Pykenam (Pakenham), of North Grantham, 1535, and John Raynes, of South Grantham, 1535.

In 1560, Queen Elizabeth presented Edward Barnard to the Prebend of North Grantham in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury.<sup>1</sup>

Since all the Churches in the Soke, except Belton and Sapperton, are in the gift of the Prebendaries of Grantham, it is reasonable to conclude that Grantham is of a more ancient foundation than any of them, and Mother Church to them.

<sup>1</sup> Writ of Queen Elizabeth. *Rymer's Foedera*, vol. 6, part 4, p. 93.

The patronage of Belton was probably lost to Grantham by being given to St. Mary's Abbéy, near York; Saperton by being obtained by Croyland.<sup>1</sup>

Though Grantham was named as the seat of a Bishop, in 1542, by King Henry the Eighth;<sup>2</sup> the Bishopric, I apprehend, was never constituted, nor any Bishop ever appointed.

1 Syston (not in the Soke) was stripped of its endowment by the Priory of Wroxton, in Oxfordshire: and Wyvil was swallowed up by the Priory of Farleigh.

2 Act for appointing Suffragan Bishops.

## Vicarages of Grantham.

---

Domesday mentions only Ernuin, Priest of Grantham, in 1085. Bishop Osmund's deed is dated 1091, and says nothing of *two* Prebends or of any Priest of Grantham; Peter Blesensis mentions Thurgar, Priest of Grantham, with two Deacons,<sup>1</sup> in 1114, twenty-three years after Osmund's deed. I refer the *two* vicarages of Grantham to the *two* Prebendaries created, about 1125,<sup>2</sup> by Matilda, who were represented each by his Vicar in Grantham Church.

There were Priest's chambers, the residences originally of the Vicars, one over the North, the other still existing over the South porch of the Church. There is also a stone sanctus-bell frame on each of the aisles, indicating two Churches in one building.

In 1535, the Prebendaries are returned as of Salisbury, where their duties were performed by two Vicars choral, to whom they paid stipends of 40*s.* yearly. These Vicars choral represent Bishop Osmund's regular Canons.

In that year, the Vicars of Grantham had only the offerings and small tithes, producing £26 a year, which were divided equally between them.—Easter offerings £9 10*s.*; offerings on three other days, £1 18*s.* 4*d.*; tithes of eggs, 1*s.* 8*d.*;

<sup>1</sup> These were probably the Chaplains of Londonthorpe and Houghton.

<sup>2</sup> At which time she gave the Lordship to De Tankerville.

lambs and wool, £18.; hemp, flax, geese, poultry, pigs, &c., 16s. 4d.; other offerings, 18s. 10d.—Total £26. 0s. 2d.

Just before the Conquest, the parish Priest of Grantham had an income of £10: at that time a quarter of wheat was worth 6s.: if it is worth 60s. now, the Saxon Priest of Grantham enjoyed an income equivalent to one of £100 at present.

At the Reformation, the united income of the Grantham Vicars was £26; wheat was then worth 15s. a quarter, and consequently £26 was equivalent to £105 now. And this income arose from the small tithes and offerings, the endowment having been lost to the parish Church by the Papal system.

The Vicar of the Northern portion signed himself Senior Vicar.

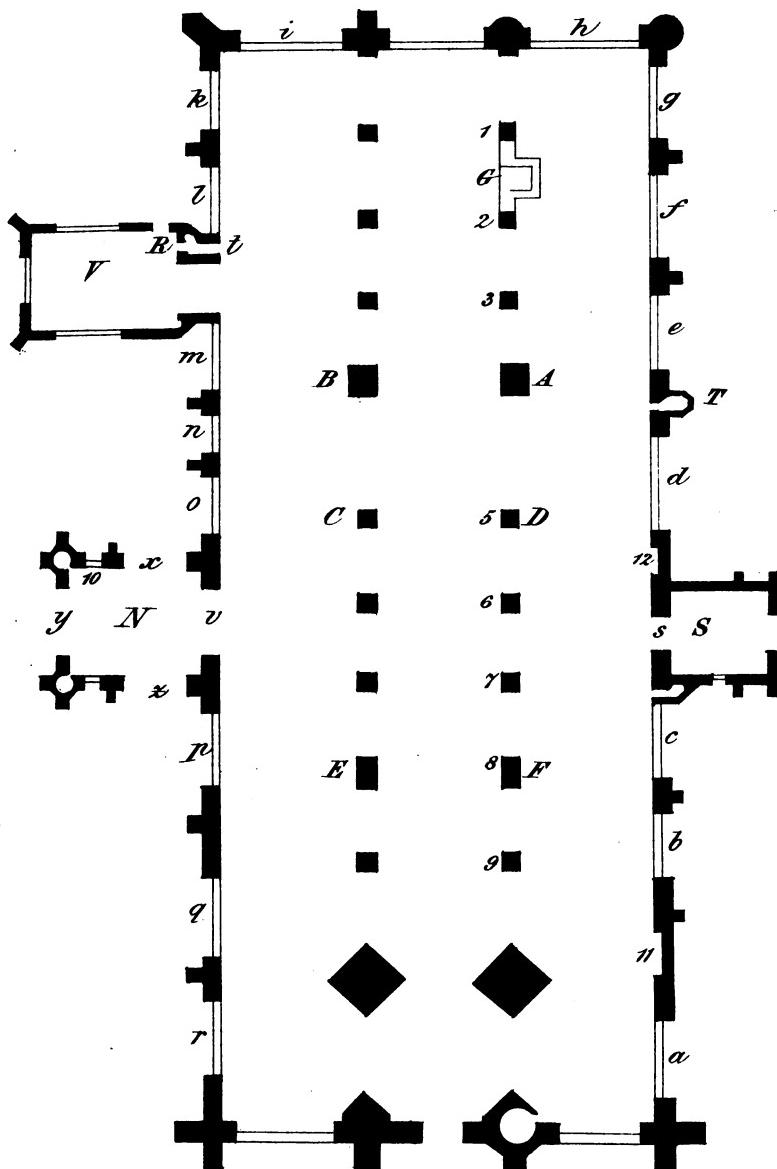
In 1535, John Wilkinson was Vicar of North Grantham, North Gonerby, and Londonthorpe: Richard Sheppard, Vicar of South Grantham, South Gonerby, and Braceby.

Henry the Eighth did not plunder the Church, the Romish system had left nothing for any one to take. Its present endowment is the result of the honesty of Protestant times.

The two Vicarages were amalgamated in 1714.



GROUND PLAN OF  
ST WOLFRANS CHURCH, GRANTHAM.



0    12    24    Feet.    48    72

## Grantham Church Structure.

---

WHEN the Norman Conqueror's Doomsters surveyed Grantham, they found its Church dedicated to a Norman Saint, Bishop Wolfran, who had died more than 300 years before in the Abbey of Fontanelle, near Rouen; an Abbey which, as Ingulphus tells us, was specially protected by the Conqueror.

In the History of Wolfran, there is no mention of his having visited England. He must have become known in this part of England from the circumstance of his having been a Missionary among the Frieslanders, at the time when many Missionaries proceeded from the dioceses of Eastern England to the same country; and there, as we are told, became acquainted with Bishop Wolfran.<sup>1</sup> This was at the beginning of the eighth century. Some one of them may have commemorated Bishop Wolfran, at Grantham, by dedicating the Church to him.

There are indications also of intercourse between Lincolnshire and Friesland, in early times. The Frieslanders used to join the parties of invading Colonists who, year after year, for a long period, visited England every spring; brought over by the strong Easterly winds of early summer. Friesland lies due East of the Wash, on the shores of which, the villages of Frist Friskney and Frieston retain the names of the Frisii who

1 Balæus Centur. Sec. Script. Angl.

settled in them.<sup>1</sup> That part of Lincolnshire has since acquired the name of Holland, and Friesland itself is a province of Holland.

At the period when Wolfran was remarkable for his labours in Friesland, and Missionaries were passing to and fro between Friesland and this part of England, Grantham was in the diocese of Lindesig or Lindsey;<sup>2</sup> the Bishop of which, Kimbertus, was seated at Stowe. He was an active Prelate. Mercia was a flourishing and settled kingdom ; the Danes had not yet commenced their invasions ; and parishes were being constituted. In the absence of any historical record of the fact, we may assign this period A. D. 750, as a probable date of the first foundation of Grantham Church. Such early Saxon Churches were generally of timber, and subsequent Norman structures enclosed the original site as being consecrated ground.

Successive additions have effected in the Parish Church of Grantham, those developments which have resulted in the present uniform and magnificent structure : the ground plan of which is a regular oblong, measuring within the walls 198 feet by 78.

It would not be generally interesting to enter at any length into the various supposed evidences for the following opinions as to the changes made in the building : they are offered as the result of some consideration.

In examining the fabric, with the object of ascertaining the alterations made in it, and the order, in respect to time, at which they were made ; we should begin at the large piers *A.* and *B.* *See plan of the Church.* These piers seem to be the most ancient parts of the building. The arcades, East and West, have evidently been engrafted on them.

These piers, *A. B.*, look like the remains of large masses of stone work ; the Western corners of a central tower ; which, if it did exist, would cover the present chancel as far as the second pillar Eastward, 2.

1 Frisby and Frisden have disappeared, Friesthorpe is inland.

2 Matthew Paris. *Life of King Offa.*

Proceeding Westward from the piers *A. B.*, to the piers *E. F.*, we pass over the nave of the old Norman Church ; the intermediate pillars are of the Norman period. It is evident that once the Church extended no further Westward, and that the Western door stood across between these piers *E. F.*

These piers consist of a portion of wall between two responds, or half pillars : the Eastern face bears a Norman respond ; the Western, one of the decorated period.

When the Church extended no further Westward than this point, the porches were near to the Western end, as is most usually the case. By subsequent additions to the Church, Westward, the porches now are near to the centre of it. The inner doorways of these porches are of semi Norman work.

If these conjectures are admitted, Grantham Church in the reign of King Stephen was a wide Church, with a Norman tower Eastward, and a short chancel or apse beyond it.

It will be seen, by the plan, that the first arch Westward from the piers *A. B.*, is nearly double the span of the other arches of the range. The present arch at this place is of the perpendicular period. I apprehend that there were two Norman arches here originally of the same date as the tower, and older than the present columns of the arcade. They, and the intervening pier, were removed when rood lofts received their development ; and the wide arches now standing have evidently been built against the piers *A. B.*, so as to admit of a clear view of a large rood loft and gallery.

The supports of the rood loft timber can still be seen on the piers ; and in the Southern wall is the door, (built up now), by which the rood gallery was reached from the newel stair in the turret outside. In the North wall opposite are still the ends of the beams of this rood gallery.

There are no traces of a chancel arch ; but the two piers *A. B.* stand at the junction of the nave and chancel.

As the style of Church Architecture passed from the Norman to the early English forms, the Norman structure received several embellishments in the early English style.

Such are the present outer door of the South porch, *S.*, and the beautiful triple doorway now inside the North porch at *v.* This elegant door seems to have stood originally as the Western door of the Church, between the piers *E. F.*, and to have been preserved and removed to its present position, on account of its beauty, when the Church was lengthened: it stands merely *applied* to the wall, covering an earlier door still traceable in the wall. Proofs that it did not originally stand where it now does, may be found by observing how the buttresses have been cut into, to admit it; by noticing that it stands above the floor of the Church, whereas the door, of the same style, in the South porch has stood there while the accumulation of soil has buried its base and lower part of its shafts. By measurement, also, it will be found that such a doorway would have been required between the piers *E. F.*

Like many other large Churches, Grantham Church seems to have been continually building during the thirteenth century.

Perhaps about 1250, the present North wall was built, commencing at, (but not including), the turret *t.*, now within the vestry: and continued Westward to the present North-west corner of the Church. From that turret to the N. W. angle, the cornice outside under the parapet, and the string course inside under the windows, are uniform; the windows also are all alike, and of geometrical design.

The South wall seems of somewhat later date; it begins at the turret *T.*, and the cornice and string course are, as in the North wall, uniform in the whole length to the South-west angle of the Church. None of the windows in this wall have their original mullions. While these walls were in progress from their Eastern extremities, it would appear that it was resolved to lengthen the Church Westward to its present extent.

The Western portion of the nave from the piers *E. F.* to the present Western door, with the tower and spire, were then designed, about 1270.

To carry out this great enlargement, and to make the new

work in the style then in vogue (the early decorated) harmonize with the old work of the arcade, the semicircular arches of the Norman builders were supplanted by the present pointed arches, which stand on Norman columns.

When the additions were completed, the Western door was removed and placed in the North porch, as has been already supposed.

The building of the tower and spire must have occupied several years, they probably were not completed till about 1300. And the upper portion partook of the tendency to florid decoration, which gradually grew upon the pure decorated style which marks the lower portion and the Western door.

I apprehend that up to this period, there were no chancel aisles ; and no North chancel aisle till late in the 15th century.

The South chancel aisle was added as a Lady Chapel, or Chantry of the Virgin Mary, about 1340. It is remarkable for the tracery of its four windows, which, without being of the foreign flamboyant character, is of a beautifully florid type.

The North porch was built while the enlargement of the nave was proceeding. This porch will be separately noticed. The South porch has been pulled down and rebuilt at some later period, the doorways being preserved.

The Church, having acquired its present form, (if we except the North chancel aisle), appears to have been neglected during the fourteenth century, and to have considerably decayed : for extensive and general repairs were effected uniformly in the building about the latter end of the fifteenth century.

During these repairs, the originally high-pitched roof was lowered ; and from its materials much of the present roof was made. The first roof was eaved, and overhung the cornice; as the weather-mouldings and lead-mark still plainly shew. The roof being lowered, the present embattled parapet was added on to the walls ; and the one perpendicular window, *D.* in the South wall substituted for an earlier decorated one.

From the introduction of the Tudor rose in these restorations, and from their general style, they may be attributed to the zeal and munificence of Richard Fox, who was presented to the Prebend of South Grantham by Henry the Seventh in 1485. And we may also assign to him the addition of the North chancel aisle, called the Choir of Corpus Christi, as his College at Oxford was called Corpus Christi College.

The Chapel, V., now serving as the Vestry, has the arms of Hall in stone over the entrance to it; and there remained on an adjoining window, in 1662, this inscription with the same arms,—‘*qui hanc capellam ex parte boreali construxit.*’—It is of later date than the aisle.

The North windows remain as they originally were, unless the circles in their heads were once cusped, which is very uncertain. The work in the North walls of Churches, it is well known, decays less than that on the South side, from being less exposed to alternations of heat and cold.

The three windows in the South wall, *a. b. c.* retain much of their original character, but the jambs, mullions, and tracery have been chiselled away at some period later than that of the repairs in the fifteenth century.

The Western facade has evidently undergone great alterations; the gables of the aisles have been squared, the apex of each only remaining. The trefoil lights in them above the windows have been blocked up, in consequence of the lowering of the roofs; and larger windows have been substituted in the place of those first constructed.

The gable of the chancel has also been altered. It is evident, from an examination of the upper part, that originally it was much higher, so as to bring the top to a level with the ridge of the nave roof. This allowed of well developed chancel clerestory windows, with perhaps a window above the present East window. I think the chancel was lowered and the present unhappy clerestory windows inserted about 1628. The original East window, which was of decorated work, as the drip-

stone still remaining proves, was replaced by the present window, apparently at a still more recent period.

The various lowerings of the roofs have detracted greatly from the appearance of the Church.

Having thus rapidly surveyed the structure of the Church, so as to indicate the successive changes which appear to have been made in the building, and the order in which they were effected ; a few details of interest remain to be noticed.

#### THE CRYPT.

Between the first and second columns of the chancel arcade, is a small porch of elegant work, *G.*, giving access by a flight of stone steps down to the Crypt.

The Crypt originally extended under the whole South chancel aisle, and has an entrance from the churchyard. It is not of more ancient date than the chancel aisle above.

This Crypt was divided into Eastern and Western portions, with an external door to each, at an early period. Each portion probably was used as a chantry Chapel. In the Eastern portion, the altar and piscina still remain. The slabs have been removed from the altar, and the cavity remains where relics were kept for exhibition on certain days. This part of the Crypt was long used as a vestry, and the charters of the Borough, with other important papers, were kept in the old chest which still remains in it.

The Western portion of the Crypt is now nearly full of bones. It is very difficult to examine it in its present condition. The Choir once had their seats on the flat top of the porch to the crypt *G.*

#### THE SOUTH PORCH.

Over the South porch of the Church is a chamber reached by a newel stair in a turret of more recent construction than the Church wall. A small oriel window, or hagioscope, opens from this chamber through the Church wall, giving a view of the altar. The fire place and chimney to this chamber are ancient. It appears to have been the residence of the Vicar of

South Grantham in ancient times ; or of a recluse : and if so, is one of those chambers, called a *domus inclusi*,<sup>1</sup> found generally over porches of Churches. Richard Riches, the hermit of Grantham, in 1505, is mentioned in an old document.

#### THE NORTH PORCH.

Over the North porch was also a chamber : and there is a window of curious tracery opening from that chamber into the Church. This window is now blocked up ; it is figured in *plate 2.*

The North porch, *N.* is a portion of the structure very perplexing to the examiner.

It was an addition to the Church, and not originally a porch. The three openings at *x. y. z.* were not constructed to receive either windows or doors. At 10 is the place where an altar with a piscina has stood : this porch has a bell gable. When it was vaulted so as to admit of a Priest's chamber above it, the beautiful mouldings of the early English inner doorway were chopped away with a ruthlessness such as is usually thought peculiar to the Puritans.

The parish engines used to be kept in this porch.

#### THE FONT.

The font, now standing near *G.* in the plan, is deserving of attention. It is of decorated work, and though injured, not greatly defaced. It is octagonal, and every one of the eight faces bears a subject from Scripture history. These *alti reliefi* are executed with great skill and much taste.

The subjects may be taken in the following order :

1st. The Annunciation. The virgin is at a *prie dieu*, the angel kneeling, a tree between the two figures.

2nd. The Nativity of our Lord.

3rd. The Purification. The offering of two pigeons in the Temple.

4th. The Baptism of our Lord. The dove above.

1 Chamber of a recluse. Such abodes were commonly called anchorages, from the term anker, a corruption of anchorite.

- 5th. Christ blessing little children.
- 6th. The Transfiguration.
- 7th. Abraham offering Isaac.
- 8th. Three crowned seated figures. The Magi?

There are seven figures under canopies round the shaft of the font. St. Peter and St. Andrew can be distinguished; the others are much mutilated.

On the undersides of the bowl, among other ornaments, are the Tudor rose and the pelican feeding her young; this was the device of Richard Fox, Prebendary of South Grantham in 1485. Hence it appears that this font was his gift to the Church.

#### TOMBS.

Both the sepulchral recesses, 11, 12, are of one design.

The arch of the recess is foliated, and four angels kneeling form the cusps. The manner in which the wings of these figures connect the cusps with the arch is deserving of observation.

The two upper angels bear the instruments of the Crucifixion; one, the crown of thorns and the hammer; the other, the nails and the spear.

The tomb at 11, is that of one of the Haryngtons, and has his arms on it. There are some few remains of the altar tomb that projected from under the canopy.

The tomb at 12, is that of Richard Salteby and Margaret his wife. The Haryngton and Salteby families are noticed elsewhere in this work.

The Church is rich in heads of kings and queens, mostly in good preservation.

The monument to Sir Dudley Ryder, 1756; and that to Captain William Cust, 1746, are admired works by Sir Henry De la Chere.

---

The solidity of this fine Church is unimpaired, and its proportions not materially injured. It invites the hand of a

competent restorer. Instead of dwelling on its present condition internally, we must notice with satisfaction that beauty is returning to the structure. The parish, in 1851, began the necessary work of restoration by covering fifty feet of the South aisle with a fine and lofty new roof.

The original pitch of the roof cannot be reproduced without removing the parapets and projecting the roof over the cornice, as it was at first.

The trustees of the fund which Mr. Charles Clarke bequeathed in 1795 for the beautifying of the Church applied the accumulated proceeds thereof, in 1853, to the insertion of stained glass, the work of Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, into the large window at the Western end of the North aisle.

The window over the Western door, celebrated for its richly decorated mullions, was filled with stained glass in 1852, to commemorate the Rev. Charles Richard Bradley, of Elton, by his father, Mr. Richard Bradley : whose widow commemorated her husband and his family by filling the Western window of the South aisle with stained glass in 1855.

The Tower and Spire have been noticed in a separate chapter.

#### DIMENSIONS OF GRANTHAM CHURCH.

---

	feet	in.
From the ground to parapet of Tower -	144	0
Thence to Vane - - - - -	130	0
From ground to cornice of the Church -	90	0
Length of Nave - - - - -	135	0
, Chancel - - - - -	63	0
, Church, inside - - - - -	198	0
Width of North Aisle - - - - -	26	0
, Nave - - - - -	28	0
, South Aisle - - - - -	24	6
, Church, throughout - - - - -	78	6

## Grantham Grammar School.

---

THE Rev. Richard Fox, D. D., a native of Ropsley, was collated to the Prebend of South Grantham in 1485, consecrated Bishop of Exeter in 1492, translated to the See of Bath and Wells in the same year, to Durham in 1494, and finally to Winchester in 1500.

He was Keeper of the Privy Seal to Henry the Seventh and Henry the Eighth, discerned the abilities of Wolsey, and introduced him to the confidence of the latter ; and, offended at the arrogance of his protégé, withdrew from Court.

In 1516 he founded Corpus Christi College, Oxford ; obtaining a Charter by which it was constituted as a Seminary for the Monks of St. Swithin's Priory, Winchester. But he was prevailed on by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, to cancel this Charter, and to refound the College for secular students ; towards the building of which Hugh Oldham gave 6000 marcs, besides certain estates as an endowment.

In the statutes which Bishop Fox framed for the government of Corpus Christi College, he directed that the Students should be chosen from those dioceses in which he had held preferment, of which two were to be from the County of Lincoln.

It was from his connection with Grantham as a Prebendary of the Church, and from his being a native of Ropsley, that he determined to provide a School at Grantham ; which he did

in 1528, building the school-house and master's residence, and endowing the school with lands in the neighbourhood, and with an estate in the County of Somerset.

He made the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College Trustees of the property, to maintain the school premises in repair, and to pay the master six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four-pence, yearly.

In 1553 King Edward the Sixth, on the petition of the Alderman and Burgesses of Grantham, confirmed the deed of Bishop Fox, and refounded the school by the name of the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth ; endowing it with the lands which had belonged to the Chantries of the Holy Trinity and of the Virgin Mary then dissolved, and with several endowments of annual services for certain deceased persons' souls celebrated in the parish Church ; the Corporation being made Trustees of these estates, and to have the appointment of the master.

The statutes of the school were drawn up by Nicholas, Bishop of Lincoln, and Sir William Cecil, and were approved and confirmed by Thomas, Bishop of Lincoln, July 26, 1571. These statutes provided for the appointment of a Second Master.

By the Municipal Reform Acts of 1895, the School Trust of King Edward's endowment was transferred from the Corporation to Trustees named by the Lord Chancellor.

The school room measures 70 feet by 30. It was restored and refitted internally in 1855, in which year the original statutes were superseded by regulations sanctioned by the Commissioners of Charitable Trusts.

Under this scheme the school was opened to boys whose parents might not be resident in the town ; a yearly fee of £4 was required from every pupil ; the Continental languages were added to the prescribed course of instruction ; and the stipend of the Head Master was raised to £250 ; that of the Second Master to £150 ; and that of the Third to £120.

The arms of the school are those of Bishop Fox; azure, a pelican or, quartering those of the See of Winchester. The Bishop of Lincoln is Visitor.

The following have been scholars at this school: Sir William Cecil in 1532, Sir Henry More in 1624, Isaac Newton in 1654, Colley Cibber in 1682, Dean Newcome in 1710, and the present Bishop of Sydney, Frederick Barker.

## Miscellaneous Notes.

---

THE Public Record, known as the *Noneæ Rolls*, compiled in the reign of Edward the Third, contains a list of tradesmen, &c., in the several towns in England. In Nottingham there are 215 persons returned as tradesmen. Unfortunately the return for Grantham has been lost and never yet recovered.

Another document, invaluable to the local historian, the *Nomina Villarum*, which gives the names of all townships and owners of land in that reign, is incomplete for all Lincolnshire. Only the list of townships is known to have been returned by the Sheriff. These deficiencies in the Public Records deprive us of much information respecting Grantham.

It appears from the Hundred Roll, that King John granted to the Templars the property they held in Grantham, which is stated to have been fourteen tofts, worth 16s. a year.

It is stated in Baker's Chronicle that King Henry the Third being distressed for money mortgaged Grantham to William de Valence. I think this is a mistake. The Rolls of 55. Henry 3. record that Prince Edward being abroad (on the Crusade) had in his great and urgent necessity borrowed 6000 troyes pounds of silver of the French King, and had conveyed his lands in England, among which Grantham is mentioned, to his father the King, who repaid the money: and the King appointed Thomas of Kinros his receiver for Grantham, Stamford, &c.

In 1388, John del Hay, Alderman of Grantham, was sworn with others to keep and maintain peace and good order, and to defend especially Thomas Duke of Gloucester, during and till the end of the then present Parliament. Persons who, on such occasions, undertook the protection of persons summoned to Parliament, were called *Manucaptiores*.

John of Grantham, a wealthy woolstapler, was summoned to London in 1320, to give advice respecting the establishment of a Foreign staple, that is, the admission of Foreign goods.

He was elected one of the Sheriffs of London in 1323, and Lord Mayor in 1329, and was appointed the King's Receiver at the Port of London in 1331. In 1334, he petitioned the King because his ship, the Catharine of London, laden with 1100 quarters of salt, worth £220, had been captured off Margate on the 14th August, 1322, by the Earl of Flanders' men.

As Shylock remarked of Antonio's ventures and the risks of merchants, 'there are water thieves and land thieves, I mean pirates ;' so John of Grantham's ship fell in with water thieves, piratical Flemings; and the ship of John Kygge, of Grantham, fell in with land thieves, the lawless retainers of Sir John Mowbray, who, meeting John Kygge's boat on the Trent, laden with herrings and other victuals, on Nov. 25, 1332, going to Nottingham, attacked it at Kynardes ferry, and plundered it.

A less prosperous John of Grantham, whose stock in trade is valued at 10*s.* in the *Nomina Villarum*, joined a mob at Nottingham in 1315, in ringing the common bell and marching with arms and banners against the Castle, in which they held the Governor, John de Segrave, prisoner for eight days ; for which he got into trouble.

Adam of Grantham was page to Queen Philippa, wife of Edward the Third ; by an entry in the Issue Roll of the Exchequer, we learn that he enjoyed a good service pension of £3. per annum.

' Oct. 16, 1371. To Adam of Grantham to whom the King by his letters patent lately granted 60*s.* yearly during his life,

to be received at the Exchequer, for the good service rendered by him to the King, for half a year's payment of his allowance, in money, £1 10s.'

William of Grantham enjoyed the same pension, but I cannot ascertain who he was.

John le Ferrour, in 1391, held, under the Earl Warenne, for a yearly payment of £4 2s. 10d., four shops, one stall, a void piece of ground, 12 feet square; with 70 acres of plough land, 13½ acres of meadow, and right of pasture for his cattle, in the Earl's enclosed pasture. The 'Earl's enclosed pasture,' I conclude was EARL'S FIELDS.

The Earl also let to him for 40s. rent, the hay called rowayne, produced annually on the meadows called the Queen's Dam and the Milneholme. These lay near the Well Lane Mill, and it is recorded that the King granted John le Ferrour a pardon for a trespass in having obtained a lease of these meadows. From various notices of this land at the Queen's Dam, I apprehend that originally the river formed a lake about the spot, and that these meadows were reclaimed by embankment, and so were not a portion of the original manor, but reclaimed land disputed by the Crown.

Richard Salteby's tomb in Grantham Church is dated 1369, his lands were found to have escheated to the King in 1370; and in that year, the King granted to Galfrus de Casterton, 120 acres of land with their appurtenances, lying in Harrowby, which was Richard Salteby's; to be held of the King in socage, as of the ancient socage of Grantham, by fealty and service of one attendance at the court of Grantham.

This land then was not held on condition of doing military service, and Richard Salteby is never styled *Miles*. But military service was due from many holders in the Soke, for in 1326, John Earl Warenne, Lord of Grantham, obtained the King's permission to create Knights' fees in Harrowby, Duntorpe, Grantham, and Barkstone, in lands which are parcels of the Town and Soke of Grantham.

John Maurice, of Grantham, was convicted of aiding in the death of Piers Gaveston, in 1311.

In 1436 a writ was issued, dated Feb. 14, demanding a loan of £20 from Grantham, towards the equipment of the army about to be sent into France under the Lord Talbot.

Thomas Hall and Augustin Porter, of Grantham, appear in 1496 among Commissioners for levying aids of one 15th and one 10th in the Town and Soke, granted to the King, Henry the Seventh, towards the expenses of the war with the Scots who had espoused the cause of Perkin Warbeck; and John Brandeswell, Merchant of Grantham, was excepted from the general pardon granted to those concerned in levying war against the King in 1495, in behalf of Perkin Warbeck.

The noble family of Le Scrope, of Masham, had land in Gonerby, and we find Richard Le Scrope, Knight, in 1386, appointing John of Gonerby his Proctor and Attorney in all causes arising out of his celebrated suit against Grosvenor, respecting his family arms.<sup>1</sup>

A branch of the family of Haryngton was settled at Grantham in Edward the First's days. Baldwin Haryngton and John Haryngton are buried in Grantham Church, and no doubt many others of the family.

In 1403, John Haryngton of Grantham, and others, gave certain lands in Grantham and the Soke to W. Steynton and J. Hencoop, Chantry Chaplains in Grantham, and to their successors for ever.

In 1430, Baldwin Haryngton owned four messuages on the East side of the Market Place. Members of the family were residents in, and benefactors of, the town for a very long period. In 1684, when Charles the Second required the surrender of the Charter, Captain Haryngton took charge of the Charter, obtained a new one in London, and brought it to Grantham, declining any fee or reward.<sup>2</sup>

1 Scrope and Grosvenor Roll.

2 Corporation Books.

Of the families of Skipwith and Welby, several members are recorded by the town with gratitude. They came from Multon and its neighbourhood.

Thomas Welby, of Multon, was one of the Jury, and William Skipwith, one of the King's Judges; on occasion of an inquisition respecting the boundaries of Croyland, in 1390. Athelard Welby, of Pinchbeck, on a similar occasion, in 1415; and in 1485, Richard Welby, *illustris vir et legibus eruditus*, attempted with others to settle the same difficult question.<sup>1</sup>

The following account of one member of this family, who at the time were settled near or in Grantham, is too interesting to be omitted. 'Henry Welby, Esq., a Lincolnshire Gentleman of £1000 a year, died in 1636, aged 84, who after he had enjoyed the benefit of the Universities, the Inns of Court, and Foreign countries, and the reputation of a public and honourable way of living, in the 40th year of his age retired from all mankind to his house at London, after an unheard of manner for 44 years, where in true acts of charity he outshone the most bountiful of his estate, and in real solitude outrivalled the greatest recluses of the Romish Church, for which he was called the Phoenix of his times.'<sup>2</sup>

Sir Edward Skipwith lived in the house East of the Church, and died in 1666. A mural inscription on the wall in the present vestry records him, his wife, and thirteen children, and concludes with these words, *Ecce, audi, cave. Ego hodie, tute heri, ille cras, Vivens, Mortuus, et sepultus.*

Dr. Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who died 1607, was a native of Grantham, where the family were long settled: another Dr. John Still was Prebendary of South Grantham in 1613.

The most eminent native of Grantham was Dr. Henry More, of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, born at Grantham Oct. 12, 1614, died Sep. 1, 1687. All his works are in the

<sup>1</sup> History of Croyland.

<sup>2</sup> Echard's Hist.

Library over the South porch, each inscribed with his own hand, *Ex dono authoris*. He was a very pious and profoundly learned man, but too often wasted the energies of his mind on matters beyond the province of intellect. His Life is in the Vestry Library, written by a Rector of Ingoldsby, who achieved in it the difficult task of writing a Biography without giving any information respecting his hero.

The Seckers lived at the old house adjoining the Angel Inn : several of their names are still on the walls. Edward Secker was Alderman in 1689, he was uncle of Archbishop Secker.

Thomas Hurst, D. D., on being robbed and ejected from his living of Barrowby ; and Robert Sanderson, D. D., after he had been plundered and ejected from his living of Boothby Pagnell ; resided in Grantham during the terrible days of Civil War. As authorized Lecturers, they had upheld sound doctrine during days of impiety and blasphemy, had relieved the miseries of the town, smitten with plague in 1637, and by their advice emboldened the parish to protest against innovations in the parish Church. It must be recorded to the honour of the town of Grantham that the labours of such men were appreciated by it, and when, in 1637, they were presented with the freedom of the Borough, the town inscribed their names in letters of gold on its Records.

T. A. H., the initials of Dr. Hurst and his wife, are on the wall of the house at the corner of the Manthorpe Road, opposite to the former theatre.

Dr. Sanderson became Bishop of Lincoln in 1660, and died 1662. The man is best described in King Charles the First's saying, 'I take an ear with me to hear other men, I take a conscience to hear Sanderson.'

Augustine Porter obtained the Manor of the Great Abbey of St. Mary of York, lying in Belton, at the dissolution of the Abbeys, and had a seat at Belton. Members of the family enjoyed some consideration in Grantham as early as the 15th century. The only document referring to the Reformation,

with respect to Grantham, is the following letter from William Porter, of the Grey Friars, Grantham, to John Foxe, the author of the Book of Martyrs. It is preserved in the original Latin among the Harleian Papers in the British Museum. The date is the second year of Queen Elizabeth, at which time Foxe was Prebendary of Skipton, in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury.

‘William Porter to John Foxe. Harl. MSS. 417.

Grantham, 21st July, 1560.

I request you to peruse this my answer, comparing it with this (enclosed) papistical cavilling, and, where needful, to assist me with your advice and help. I have read many learned Doctors; I have quoted them only as Peter Martyr, Ridley, Hooper, and Frith, have before quoted them in their books, conceiving that they have not blundered. Pray use your best diligence so that this letter-bearer may bring back your answer. I assure you that I take great delight in these exercises. Would to God that it were permitted me to enjoy your company for some years; but be it as God wills it should be. I know that Paul writes, ‘The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.’

I further request you to favour my answers with your own additions to them; namely, to shew in a concise argument the true distinction between faith and a mystery, with a conclusion directed against the worshippers of the Pope, who lurk in corners. I beseech you, by the mercies of the Lord, to remember me in your prayers. I commend you, your wife and children to the Lord.

Yours from his heart,

WILLIAM PORTER.’

This William Porter rented or purchased the Grange of Vincent and Boucher to whom Henry the Eighth gave it; his annoyance by the ‘*papicola latitantes in angulis*’ reads as though he found the Priory haunted by the ghosts of the old Friars.

The House of the Grey Friars was turned into a dwelling called Cistercian Place: here the Porters and afterwards the Burys lived. The buildings stood, I believe, along the West side of the Market Place, from the site of the Conduit Westward. For although the first Grant which the Grey Friars obtained was only the Grange, bounded by the Mowbeck, they acquired other property extending, I think, from the Mowbeck to the Market Place, and built on it.

In 1565, Arthur Hall paid a fine, as homage, to Queen Elizabeth, he being her tenant of the Manor of Earl's Fields.

In 1598, the Rev. Francis Trigge, Rector of Welbourn, gave, by a deed, in trust to the Alderman and Prebendaries of Grantham, a valuable collection of books for the benefit and use of the town, and desired that the books might be deposited and kept in a convenient chamber, which was over the South porch of Grantham Church. On the wall of that Library there were formerly some verses recording the gift, beginning thus,

*Optima Franciscus donavit Biblia Triggus  
Welbornæ quondam Concionator amans, etc.*

Some of the books are interesting as being specimens of early printing; especially a volume of Cases in Canon Law, some by Lanfranc, Doctor in Canon Law, of Brescia. This volume seems to have been printed in the fifteenth century. Rabbi Mordecai Nathan's Concordance to the Hebrew Scriptures; Stephens' Concordances to the Septuagint and Vulgate; the Antwerp Bible, edited for Plantinus by Arias Montanus, 1572, and other valuable works.

Books given at different times to the town have been added to this Library, such as Dr. Henry More's works, in 6 vols. The rare Antwerp Polyglott, in 8 volumes, was presented to it by Bishop Sanderson in 1661. Of this magnificent work only one complete volume and portions of four or five others remain. The work was printed at Antwerp for Philip the Second, King of Spain, and almost the whole impression of

500 copies was lost at sea on its passage from Antwerp to a Spanish harbour. A few were obtained from the printer by learned men, and Dr. Sanderson, then engaged in assisting Dr. Walton in compiling his Polyglott Bible, procured the copy which he gave to Grantham.

In 1642, Edward Skipwith, Esq., out of his love and well wishing to learning, and to encourage the Vicars of Grantham to pursue their studies in the winter time, gave 50s.: the yearly interest thereof to provide firewood for the Library fire.

The books were originally chained to their shelves, the chains still remain.

The following letter from the Alderman and Burgesses of Grantham is copied from the original among the Burleigh Papers in the British Museum. It is addressed to Sir W. Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh, who was born in 1520, and began his education at Grantham Grammar School, of which he must have been one of the earliest scholars, as that school was not established till 1528. The letter contains an allusion to the school.

‘ To the Right Hon. Sir William Cecil, Knight, one of the King’s Majesty’s two principal Secretaries, give this at the court.

Our humble duty premised. Your Lordship’s letter sent by your servant Lord Williams we have received, proving thereby your goodwill of long time borne and now performed to the town of Grantham, that ever as in all other worthiness, you have won unto yourself immortal fame, so in this you have deserved a perpetual memory and further thanks at our hands, that we must needs account ourselves so much bound unto your Lordship, that we can never be able to deserve your goodness; but evermore to wish some occasion that your Lordship might have some trial and taste of our good will.

Your desire in your said letter touching the appointment of one of our Burgesses,<sup>1</sup> we have most gladly accepted and

1 To represent the Borough in Parliament.

granted, and have requested the Sheriff to repair unto you for the nomination of the person. For the other, before the receipt of any of your letters, at the special suit of the Earl of Rutland, we have agreed to continue our ancient Burgess Sir Edward Warnde,<sup>1</sup> Knight; from which agreement, made at the instance of so noble a man, we cannot with our honesties digress. So that we are not able to perform your request made in the behalf of Lord Hussy.<sup>2</sup>

It may further please you, Sir, for that we know the conveyance<sup>3</sup> for the assurance<sup>4</sup> of the school will ask a charge,<sup>5</sup> we would be glad to know the same, that we might provide and send up money therefore.

Thus as we are bound daily to pray for the continuance of your health, so we most humbly wish the increase of your honour.

By your Lordship's ever assuredly to command,  
the Alderman and his Burgesses of Grantham.'

NO SIGNATURES.

From Grantham the VIII<sup>th</sup>

day of February, A<sup>o</sup>. 1552.'

It would appear from the above letter, that Sir W. Cecil had asked leave to name both the Grantham Burgesses in Parliament, and the Corporation permitted him to name one; and also offered to pay the expense of conveying some chantry lands to the Grammar School.

Isaac Newton was born Dec. 25th, 1642, in the Manor House at Woolsthorpe, which stands close to the village of Colsterworth, in the Soke of Grantham. His mother was an Ayscough; there were Ayscoughs then in Grantham, distant relatives of young Newton. When he was twelve years old, he was sent

<sup>1</sup> Warner.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Hussy was Member two years after.

<sup>3 4</sup> These words are probably correctly given, but they are very indistinct in the original.

<sup>5</sup> Will occasion some expense.

to Grantham Grammar School, of which Mr. Stokes was then Head Master. Young Newton lodged with Mr. W. Clarke, a respectable Apothecary, Alderman in 1651 and 1657, whose house stood next to the George Inn, Northward.

There were several dry summers about the time of young Newton's residence in Grantham, and during the first Aldermanship of Mr. Clarke, the propriety of using a horse mill, and during his second, the building of a windmill near the Gonerby brick fields, was discussed, and both schemes acted on; the windmill being built in 1657. Young Newton made a mouse mill in imitation of the horse mill, and actually constructed a small working model of the wind mill. He was inattentive to his lessons at school, but 'a sober, silent, and thinking lad,' and often spent his half holidays in knocking and hammering in his bed room. He made himself lanthorns of crumpled paper to light himself to school in dark winter mornings; and drove pegs into the walls of Mr. Clarke's house, till by observation, he had completed a set of them, with a gnomon, by the shadow of which, as it reached the pegs in succession, the hours and half hours were indicated; so that the people could always tell the hour by 'Isaac's dial,' when the sun shone. He also studied drawing under a person remembered as 'Old Barley,' who appropriately lived at the Millstones Inn, in Castlegate, and drew the portrait of his Master, Mr. Stokes, among others, which he framed himself.

In 1656, he was removed from Grantham school, and entered on the profession intended for him, that of a farmer and grazier. He then came to Grantham market with the foreman who did the required business, whilst young Newton revisited his lodging at Mr. Clarke's to pore again over his books. It is said that he usually stopped to take a draught of milk at the furthest house on Spitalgate hill, and put up at the Saracen's Head, in Westgate.

Failing to master the mysteries of grazing, he returned to Grantham school and mathematics for a short period, and quit-

ted the school for Cambridge in 1660 or 1661. This event in his life cannot be better narrated than in the words of Sir David Brewster, 'The day on which he quitted Grantham was one of much interest, not only to himself, but to his school-fellows and his venerable teacher.'

Mr. Conduit has recorded it as a tradition in Grantham, that on that day, the good old man, with the pride of a father, placed his favourite pupil in the most conspicuous part of the school, and having, with tears in his eyes, made a speech in praise of his character and talents, held him up to the scholars as a proper object of their love and admiration.'

Dr. Inman, late Professor at the Naval College, Portsmouth, and father of the present Head Master of Grantham school, the Rev. J. W. Inman, has in his possession, a prism which belonged to Newton.

Whoever takes notes in Grantham a few years hence, will find, it is to be hoped, a Statue of that great and good man erected on St. Peter's Hill.

Mr. W. Walker, B. D., the learned author of a Treatise on English Particles, and A Modest Plea for Infant Baptism, was Master of the Grantham school from 1671 to 1684, in which year he died and was buried at Colsterworth, of which parish he was Rector; with this inscription,

*Hic jacent Gulielmi Walkeri particulae.*

Dr. Stukeley, the Antiquary resided at Grantham from 1728 to 1729. Some of the family were residents in the town, but he was born at Fulbeck, 1687. He would have spent his time in Grantham creditably and usefully if he had investigated the many curious buildings then still existing in the town: his recollection of Grantham he has recorded in the following note, 'When I lived at Grantham the Duchess of Ancaster sent me a horned owl as a curiosity; it died and I buried it in my garden; this gave great offence to its kindred the Gentlemen and Squires of Grantham, who encouraged the mob to abuse me upon it.' The Doctor adds something about the owl's

belonging to the Goddess of Wisdom : it is plain that when he lost his owl, he lost what wisdom he had before, or he would never have penned such uncharitable nonsense.

The good and charitable deeds of the Rev. Thomas Hurst, D. D., have perpetuated his memory in the town. In 1648, he appeared at the Alderman's court, and gave in the names of certain poor persons whom he had allowed to dwell in certain houses near the Churchyard, which he then purposed giving, and in 1671, gave, to the town, as Alms-houses, with other tenements with which he endowed a school for poor girls.

The Rev. John Newcome, D. D., Dean of Rochester and Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, a native of the town and who had been educated at the Grammar School bequeathed at his death, in 1764, 700 volumes, chiefly valuable theological works, to be kept in Grantham Church. The East end of the South chancel aisle was railed off in 1766 to secure the book cases, which in 1806 were removed to the present vestry.

Mr. Charles Clarke, grandson of the Gentleman at whose house Newton lodged, bequeathed at his death, in 1795, the sum of £250, the interest thereof to be distributed to fatherless children, and widows who had seen more prosperous days ; and to the Church of Grantham, defaced and disarranged within, he gave £500, that the yearly interest of it might be employed in restoring it to the comeliness which it once had.

In 1588, there were 252 families resident in Grantham,<sup>1</sup> the whole population then probably was 1350. In 1800 the number of families was 617, population 3,303. At the census in 1851, there were in Grantham Borough 5,375 ; in Spitalgate 3,084 ; and in Little Gonerby 2,144 inhabitants ; total 10,603.

1 Harleian MSS., 618.

## APPENDIX.

---

### The Founding of Croyland Abbey, referred to p. 14.

MCXIV.

FROM THE CROYLAND CHRONICLE.

THE day, long looked for by so many, at length arrived ; and multitudes of neighbours, with the friends and relatives of Abbot Joffrid, assembled ; none with empty hands ; and every one ready to perform, with much devotion, his share in the proposed good work.

The grace of the Holy Spirit having first been invoked : the Abbot adding, with many tears, the Collect, ‘ Prevent us O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour,’ himself laid the first stone at the North East corner. Richard de Rulos laid the one next beside it ; offering twenty pounds of silver on it for the work. Geoffrey Riddell, Knight, the next ; with an offering of ten marks. His wife, the Lady Geon, laid the next ; undertaking to pay one stone cutter of Barnack for two years. His sister, the Lady Alicia, laid the next ; under the same engagement.

Robert, Abbot of Thorney, then laid the first stone at the South East corner : with an offering of ten pounds of silver. Alan de Croun,<sup>1</sup> a noble Baron and relative of both Abbots, laid the next ; offering on the stone the right of perpetual presentation to the Church of Freston. The Lady Muriel, his wife, laid the next ; with a gift of the advowson of the Church of Toft. His eldest son, Maurice, laid the next, giving the advowson of Butterwick ; and his sister, Matilda, laid the next ; with the gift of the advowson of Burton in Kesteven. Alan de Croun, collecting these deeds of gifts, handed them to Abbot Joffrid, as an offering to the Lord and St. Guthlac.

Robert, Earl of Leicester, and Simon, Earl of Northampton, with their Knights, then laid the foundation stones of the Apse of the Church from corner to corner. The Earl of Leicester offering forty marks on the stone he laid. Then the Baron Walter of Cantilupe, and the Lady Emicina, his wife, laid a stone, giving twenty marks. Alan of Fulbeck, a Knight, followed ; with a gift of a hundred shillings. Theodore of Boothby, and Lezelina, his wife, came next ; giving one toft and two acres of land to the Fabric fund of St. Guthlac. Thurbrand of Spalding, Knight, gave the tenth of all his sheep yearly.

<sup>1</sup> Harrowby was in the Fief of Croun, and held by the Lady Petronilla de Croun in 1275.

Simon, Earl of Northampton, laid the first stone of the North East corner buttress of the apse, with a donation of one hundred marks to the workmen. Ralph of Barnack, and the Lady Boassa, his wife, the next; offering to pay two stone cutters for four years. Helpo, a Knight, laid the next; giving the tithes of Kirkby. Simon, a Knight, and his wife, Géslana, offered on the stone which they laid next, the tithes of Morton and Scopwick. Reyner de Bathe, Knight, and his wife Goda, laid the next; offering the tithes of Houghton and Burton. By these the whole Eastern front of the Church was founded.

The Canons of the Abbot's choir laid the first stone of the ashlar North wall of the Church, nearest to the North East corner stone which Abbot Joffrid had laid. The corresponding stone of the South wall was laid by the Canons of the Prior's choir.

Huctred, Priest of Deeping, with a hundred people of that town, laid the foundation stone of the first pillar of the Northern arcade; offering their own labour one day every month till the Fabric should be complete. John, Priest of Tallington, with sixty of his people, laid that of the next column of the same side with a like offering; and Stanard, Priest of Uffington, the next, with forty-two men of his parish: making the like offering.

On the opposite, that is to say the Southern side, *Thurgar, Priest of Grantham, and with him Givo and Elward his Deacons*,<sup>1</sup> accompanied by two hundred and twenty men of Grantham, laid the foundation of the pillar facing the one laid by the Deeping men; and they offered on the stone ten marks towards the erection of the pillar. Then Thurkill, Priest of Hougham, and Elwy, the Deacon, with their people, laid the foundation of the next column; giving twenty quarters of wheat and twenty of barley for the workmen. Godescall, of Rauceby, and John, the Deacon, with eighty-four men of their parish, laid the next; offering six marks for the workmen, and to pay two stone cutters in their own quarry, and to cart the stone to the boats, and two Baiardours<sup>2</sup> to assist between the boat and the Church.

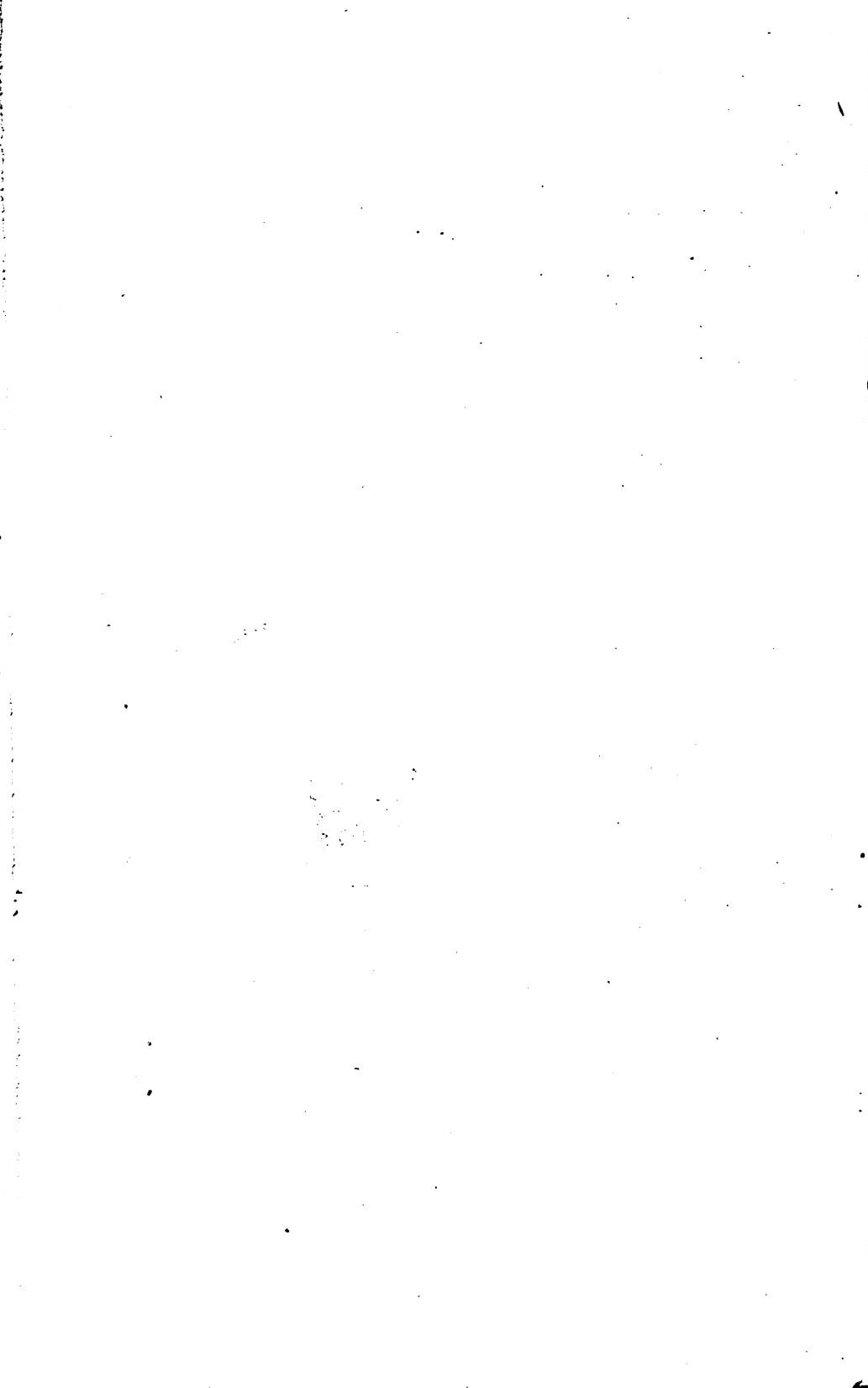
---

John Ray, the Naturalist, saw in 1660 the last of the glories of Croyland: he found the Eastern part of the Abbey Church, and the transepts, destroyed; but the nave retained some of its gilded and curiously carved roof, but so decayed, that when Cromwell took Croyland, one of the Royalist Soldiers who took refuge on the roof fell through the wood work.

1. These were probably the Chaplains of Londonthorpe and Houghton.

2 BAIARDOURS. Wharfingers or porter.





*P*  
DUE APR - 8 '49

~~DUE JUN - 4 '49~~

STAFF LIBRARY  
**CANCELLED**

Br 5188.92  
Historical notes on Grantham, and G  
Widener Library 006684089



3 2044 081 218 976